MacFormat ISSUE 233 May 2011

> Stream music and movies: Your complete guide to AirPlay > Hands-on with iPad 2 – Apple's next big thing! > Group Test: Six camcorders on test > New MacBook Pros reviewed Printed in the UK

All your Apple needs

Mac FORMAT

>Mac >iPad >iPhone
>Issue 233 May 2011

WHY YOU'LL LOVE iPAD 2

Hands-on with Apple's new tablet

Stream music and movies

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The UK's no. 1 Mac magazine

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Discover hidden OS X features

THE LATEST KIT REVIEWED

- Roxio Toast 11
- AKG K830BT headset
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Your complete guide to using Apple's AirPlay

TESTED! New Core i5 MacBook Pros reviewed

GROUP TEST

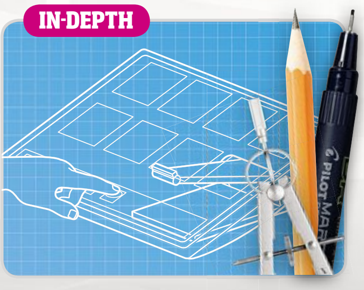
The latest kit

Six great camcorders on test

OS X hints & tips

How to recover your lost files

IN-DEPTH



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We see what's next for Apple

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Subscribe to MacFormat to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get our *Make the most of your Mac* bookazine. **Turn to p28 now!**

Three new MacBook Pros, a new iPad 2 and a new version of iOS 4.3 – phew! 2011 is still getting going and it's already shaping up to be a hell of a year for Apple; and the best is yet to come in the shape of OS X 10.7 Lion, the successor to OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard. As more and more details of the features of Lion leak out (see Startup this month, page 8) the more I'm getting excited about it.

I'll admit to initially being a little bit sceptical about Apple's approach. Taking features from the iPad and reverse-engineering them back into OS X sounded a bit backward to me, but maybe I was lacking imagination. Some of the new features make it look like exactly what Mac users expect from Apple – innovation gorgeously executed. Take AirDrop, for example, which lets you share files with anyone on your Wi-Fi network; or Versions, which uses a *Time Machine*-like interface to move through previous versions of the file you're working on; and then there's the new Conversation view for the next version of *Mail*, which sounds like just what I need on my Mac.

The power of OS X combined with the magic of iOS is now a thrilling prospect. You can find out more about Lion in next issue's *MacFormat*, on sale 27 April. Enjoy this issue, and I'll see you again then!

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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"The T6 has a three-driver subwoofer and two twin satellites"

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All your Apple needs
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WHY YOU'LL LOVE iPAD 2
Hands-on with Apple's new tablet

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>> ON THE DISC

> Timer Utility 3.5.4

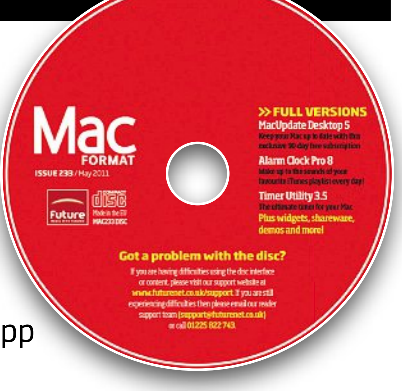
Never over-do an egg again!

> Alarm Clock Pro 8

Awake to your favourite tunes

> MacUpdate 5.0.8

Desktop version of the updater app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ISSUE 233 / May 2011
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>> WHY NOT ALSO TRY?

Like *MacFormat*? Then you'll love our brand new iPad app *Make the most of your Mac.* **Turn to page 112 to find out more!**

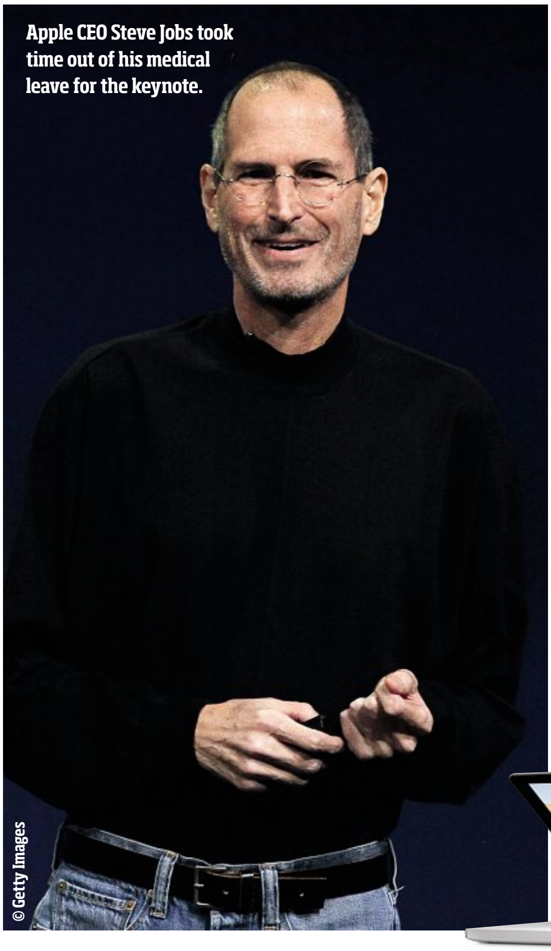
Make the most of your Mac

Start up

Apple's spring collection is here

MORE ON iPAD 2 turn to p24 for our hands-on guide

• All-new iPad 2 • MacBook Pro updates • FaceTime app


Apple CEO Steve Jobs took time out of his medical leave for the keynote.

© Getty Images

This has to be springtime for Apple as the company launches a swathe of exciting new products designed to even further propagate its mobile advantage as it lays the ground for OS X Lion, the new iPhone and yet more exciting news to come.

Leading the pack, Apple's new iPad 2 is slimmer, lighter and more powerful, with graphics nine times faster than before. Making this even more exciting is the fact that the company has managed to retain the same impressive 10-hour battery life.

In a repeat performance of last year, when many media critics condemned the iPad as nothing more than a "giant iPod touch", many in the media showed they just don't get it when they said the iPad 2 offers only 'incremental' improvements. That criticism must be tempered by the fact that no other manufacturer yet offers a tablet with equivalent features at a similar price. And with Apple already securing more than 60% of global touch-panel production, it seems unlikely there will be any significant competition this year.

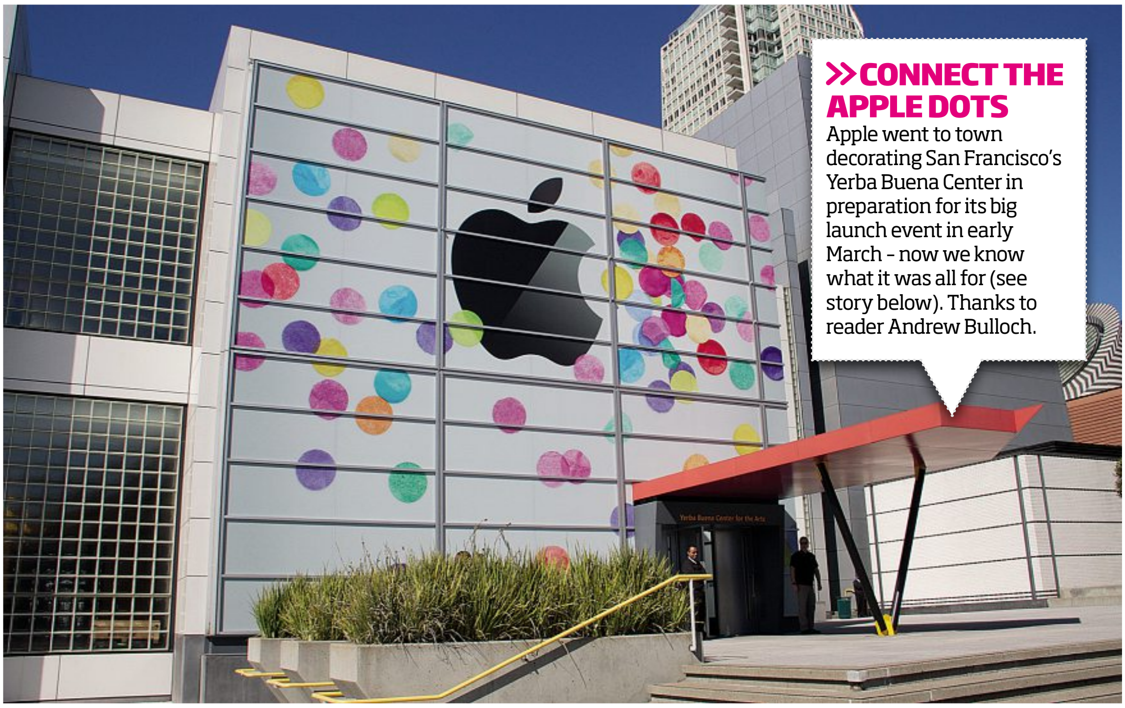
Ever the showman, Apple CEO Steve Jobs (who took a break from his medical leave to bring us the new Apple tablet) alluded to this when he said, "Most other tablets aren't even catching up with the first iPad, but we're not resting on our laurels."

Apple seems set to maintain its dominance. Forrester Research analyst, Sarah Rotman Epps, wrote, "The competing products we've seen announced so far from Motorola, RIM, HP, and others, while impressive, have fatally flawed price and distribution strategies, which leads us to our call that, of the 24.1 million tablets that will sell to US consumers in 2011, at least 20 million will be iPads."

>>MORE NEWS
For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone visit www.macformat.co.uk

MacBook Pros with all-new innards have been unveiled.

APPLE IN PICTURES / San Francisco, USA



CONNECT THE APPLE DOTS

Apple went to town decorating San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center in preparation for its big launch event in early March - now we know what it was all for (see story below). Thanks to reader Andrew Bulloch.

Putting the hurt on competitors, Apple has chosen to maintain existing US pricing levels (UK prices are unknown at time of writing). CCS Insight analyst, Ben Wood, noted the competitive challenge this creates: "If you are going to win in the tablet market and you are not Apple, you need to price against it."

Online bloggers noted that where the iPad excelled was in media consumption, iPad 2's faster processor and graphics underline its future use as a tool for media creation. Critics of this position note that a PC remains essential for syncing Apple's devices: but with Apple making moves to develop cloud-based services, it's possible even this requirement will erode over time. Jobs says his Apple is involved in the development of solutions for a post-PC future.

The high availability of content, including apps and the existence of Apple's retail chain, will secure the iPad's market position, said Rotman Epps. "In a post-PC world, consumers have a more intimate relationship with their devices," she wrote. "They use them on the couch and in bed and not just at their desk. They show their devices to other people."

Within hours of the iPad 2 launch, Gartner lowered its predictions for PC sales in 2011 and 2012, from a 15.9% to a 10.5% increase year-on-year in 2011 PC sales.

"We expect that growing consumer enthusiasm for mobile PC alternatives, such as the iPad and other media tablets, will dramatically slow home mobile PC sales, especially in mature markets," said Gartner's George Shiffler.

There's still life in the PC. Apple knows this, and as it preps OS X Lion for release this summer the company introduced a new range of MacBook Pros - notebooks delivering the most powerful mobile Macs we've seen.

Starting at £999, the new Macs implement the Apple/Intel-developed 'Thunderbolt' (see page 28). The processors are Core i5 and Core i7 dual-core chips running at up to 2.7GHz, with Intel HD Graphics 3000. The 15-inch and 17-inch MacBook Pro models host quad-core Core i7 chips up to 2.3 GHz and AMD Radeon HD graphics with up to 1GB of video memory. Check out our in-depth MacBook Pro reviews on page 86.

Apple also began offering FaceTime for Mac via the Mac App Store at 59 pence. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

100 million

Books downloaded from the iBookstore so far

> *"Apple is again subtly shaping conversations in the tech echo chamber"*

Christopher Phin takes on the post-PC haters. »

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Steve Jobs

www.apple.com

"We've been working on this product for a while and I just didn't want to miss today."

Still off sick, Jobs took to the stage to launch iPad 2.

Tim Cook

www.apple.com

"The iPhone is just below food and water on Maslow's hierarchy of needs - all phones will be smartphones."

People need an iPhone, says Cook.

Tim Cook

www.apple.com

"We're doing clever things to attack the prepaid market; we want Apple to be for everyone, not just the rich."

Apple COO hints at a cheaper iPhone.

Will Carling

www.computerworld.com

"Just picked up iPad. Big thanks to [the police and] MobileMe."

Former England rugby captain uses Back to My iPhone to successfully find his lost iPad.

Tom Mainelli

www.pcworld.com

"Apple has asked that manufacturers begin work on displays with that resolution for the iPad 3."

IDC analyst says no Retina Display iPad - yet.

Have you heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Tech terms with punch

Christopher Phin

Let's begin, in direct contravention of accepted writing conventions, with a diversion: the tech press's readiness to gulp down marketing terms spoon-fed to them by (especially though not exclusively) Apple, and regurgitate them in bite-sized chunks of punditry makes me as squeamish as I hope my metaphor has made you.

The latest term is 'post-PC', popularised if not actually coined by Steve Jobs at the recent iPad 2 launch. We're all talking about it, and Apple is again subtly, inexorably shaping the conversations in the tech echo-chamber.

And yet here I am, about to write about it myself. Sigh.

I have resigned myself to doing so, however, simply because so many are making the same silly, wilfully pedantic and obtuse argument. If, they contend, iPads, iPhones and the like are really 'post-PC devices', then why do you need to plug them into a PC before you use them? Eh? Why? Why is that Apple? Huh? Yeeeeaaah! #applefail etc.

> *"'The latest term is 'post-PC', popularised if not actually coined by Steve Jobs at the recent iPad 2 launch…"*

You can disagree with the premise if you like, folks, but at least get the premise right: 'post-PC' is a much wider, more abstract point than about the syncing and data management association an iPad, for example, currently has with a PC. It's about giving a focus to a whole bunch of discussions about pervasive computing where the hardware and OS is invisible, and only the app matters; about computing not being locked away in a big old box on a table at home, but being with you always; about much more intimate, always-connected, properly-personal-this-time devices.

Again, you can call this hyperbole, you can call it hubris, even call it wrong if you like. But to shut down completely and exempt yourself from these exciting discussions just so you can make a snide, neat, smart-arsed comment does you and the rest of the tech community a disservice.

Now, let us never speak of this again. ●

Christopher Phin is the editor of MacFormat's sister magazine for iOS, Tap! He deleted many expletives from this column…

Dashboard
Desktop
iPhoto
Mail
iCal
Safari
Pages
App Store
MacBook Air

Apple has ported the best of iOS to OS X Lion.

>> OPERATING SYSTEM

Mac OS X Lion preview praise

OS developer release promises so much

Apple has released a developer preview of Mac OS X Lion and findings so far suggest this will be the best release yet.

Apple is bringing the best ideas from the iPad over to Lion. We've previously discussed Mission Control, Launchpad and fullscreen apps, but now we know lots more. For example, new Multi-Touch gesture support includes the ability to pinch your fingers to zoom in on a web page or image, or to swipe to the next page.

One huge change is that OS X Lion Server now ships for free as a part of the standard OS. You'll be able to easily set up your own Mac as a server to take advantage of the many services – named users, push notifications, file sharing and so on. This adds support for managing OS X Lion, iPhone, iPad and iPod touch devices, even remotely. Another new feature lets you remotely log in to any account on another Mac, so long as you have the correct Apple ID. Some reports claim Apple will enable a 'Find my Mac' feature within this release, a nod to the popularity of 'Find My iPhone' in terms of the return of stolen goods.

We can also expect:

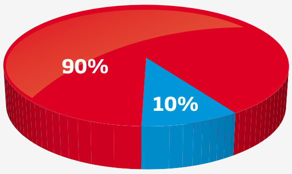
- Much improved *Mail* with an iPad-like widescreen layout and support for conversations and Microsoft Exchange.
- AirDrop: a simple yet powerful way to copy files between Macs over Wi-Fi.
- Versions: automatically save successive versions of your document as you make them, offering you a *Time Machine* interface to return to the version you want.
- Resume: apps start-up where you last left them.
- AutoSave.
- FileVault now adds the ability to wipe data from your Mac to its existing disk encryption features.
- Play songs from within the *iTunes* album art screensaver.
- New Signature Capture tool lets you take a usable image of your signature for digital document sharing.
- *iChat* adds support for Yahoo.
- MobileMe gains Dropbox-like document sharing support.
- Lion is slim – support for Java or Flash won't appear within the release, you'll have to download these separately.
- Rosetta (Power PC code) support ends in this release. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

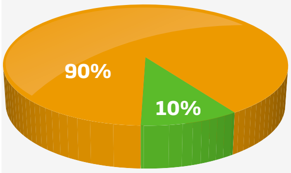
100 million

Apple has now sold over 100 million iPhones

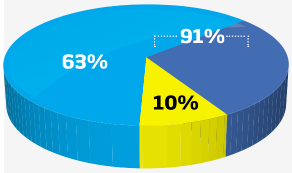
APPLE IN NUMBERS / App attack



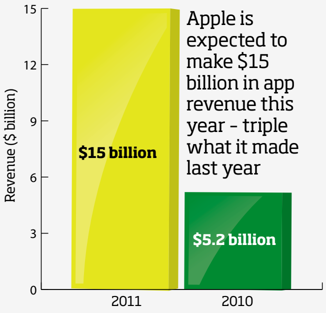
9 out of 10 consumers are aware of the iPad



9 in 10 app purchases come from the App Store



91% of iPad owners have downloaded at least one app. 63% have downloaded a paid app



Apple is expected to make $15 billion in app revenue this year - triple what it made last year

These astonishing app facts are all taken from the recently released Yudu Media report, 'The Selling Power of the iPad', which also reveals in-app purchases on free apps accounted for 15% of total iPad app revenue. **www.yudu.com**

iOS REVEALED

iOS 4.3 announced with Hotspot

iOS 4.3 available now, cues iOS 5 whispers

Alongside the iPad 2 announcement Apple also introduced iOS 4.3, while the Mac rumour websites began predicting what's inside iOS 5.

Available now, iOS 4.3 delivers faster *Safari* mobile browsing performance with the Nitro JavaScript engine; iTunes Home Sharing; enhancements to AirPlay, including the capacity to stream video and audio from non-Apple apps and websites via Apple TV; and user preferences that enable you to use the iPad side switch to either lock screen rotation or mute audio.

Where a carrier supports it, the release also introduces the Personal Hotspot feature for sharing an iPhone 4 cellular data connection over Wi-Fi.

"With more than 160 million iOS devices worldwide, including over 100 million iPhones, the growth of the iOS platform has been unprecedented," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO, in a statement. iOS is an "ecosystem that offers customers an incredibly rich experience and developers unlimited opportunities," he said.

iTunes Home Sharing lets you stream a movie, music or other iTunes media from a Mac in one room to an iPad or other iOS device in another; in future some expect this to extend to Apple's cloud-based music services, anticipated to appear with iOS 5 later this year.

iOS 5 is also expected to introduce a range of social networking and sharing features in conjunction with MobileMe. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

200 million

Number of accounts with credit cards on iTunes

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Final Cut Pro will amaze
This spring Apple will introduce a new version of its video industry workhorse, *Final Cut Pro*. This is expected to be a big upgrade and we're inclined to agree.

HOT: Lion the mobile OS
Mac OS X Lion will support remote screen sharing to a user's Home folder even when another user is using a second Home folder on the target Mac – expect more soon.

NOT: Apple ships TV
Some analysts believe Apple will introduce a TV set within the year; while the notion is attractive, we can't see why it would want to enter such a crowded market.

NOT: Jonathan Ive leaves Apple
Apple's chief designer wants to bring his kids back to Blighty, rumours claim – Apple doesn't want this to happen, but we think they'll figure something out.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Channel 4's *Embarrassing Bodies* charts what can happen to a person's body. Fortunately the team love their Macs, so at least some of the bodies aren't embarrassing. Thanks to reader Brian Wilson.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

Post-PC: my view

Susie Ochs

How great was it to see Steve Jobs stride confidently on stage at Apple's March media event to announce the iPad 2? Even though he's technically still on medical leave, he was up to his old tricks again, this time repeatedly referring to the iPad as a "post-PC device." What does that mean? A shorter product cycle and no upgrading components? Yes, but that's not all.

The other tablets set to arrive this year are at a disadvantage – the iPad was here first, and millions of people either own one or have experienced using one at a local Apple Store. So to stand out and assert their alleged superiority, the competition turns to specs. Which makes sense – the hardware and software are made by different companies, and better hardware runs software better. So Motorola is happy to tell you the Xoom has up to 32GB of RAM, for example.

Not so with Apple. While I played with the iPad 2 in the demo room, marvelling at its snappy performance, I asked the Apple rep standing next to me, "So, does it have more RAM than the previous iPad?"

> *"The iPad was here first, and millions of people own one or have experienced using one at the local Apple Store"*

"We didn't say," he replied coyly.

"I noticed," I told him.

And that was that. Are they refusing to say just to be jerks? Not at all – Apple's stance seems to be that for a post-PC device, such piffling technical details shouldn't matter to the end user. Instead, Apple's event focused on the experience of using the iPad 2, through software demos given from an easy chair, nice and casual.

It's a different approach to using a PC or a Mac, where specs count – when you buy software for a traditional computer, you really do need to check the system requirements to make sure the software will work on your machine. This doesn't apply so much to the iPad. Making sure the software works with the hardware is the job of Apple and a horde of third-party iOS developers. End users like you and me should sit back and enjoy. That's what "post-PC device" means.

Susie Ochs, Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*, wonders whether the iPad 2 will usurp the MacBook Air as her favourite Apple device.

>> DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Quark gets iPad-friendly

QuarkXPress 9 is altogether iPad-happy

While Apple and Adobe quarrel over Flash support on iOS devices, Quark has introduced *QuarkXPress 9*, equipping its new publishing solution with an array of iPad-friendly publishing features.

QuarkXPress 9 lets designers create content that can be published to digital devices – e-readers, smartphones, and tablets – with one tool, and without programming code. There's an *App Studio* for creating content for the iPad. "Designers will be able to create customised apps for the iPad, distribute their apps through the Apple App Store, and then publish richly designed, interactive content to the app," the company said. There's also an option to design for the popular Blio eReader and ePUB formats.

More than the *iDesign* focus, *XPress 9* also offers a host of productivity-boosting features. One key feature, Callouts, enables designers to move boxes and groups automatically with text, with positioning assigned relative to the page, spread, text box, paragraph, or character. The veteran publishing solution also offers more advanced tools for shape creation, a much-improved Story editor which provides a word-processor-like view and tools for bullets and numbering, image control and cloning of design layouts for re-use.

QuarkXPress 9 ships in April 2011 and costs £779 (£279 upgrade price). In a nod to future iOS 5 improvements, *App Studio* for *QuarkXPress* will be made available "90 days after *QuarkXPress 9* ships". Until 30 April anyone purchasing *XPress 8* gets a free upgrade. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

1 million

Number of CDMA iPhones Verizon has sold by pre-order

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

In the old days Apple's stock would rise in the lead-up to a new product launch. At launch the price would fall away. This played to the old investment saying: "buy on rumour, sell on fact." However when traders work this out, they begin to execute this strategy en masse and soon enough the rise gets earlier and the jump becomes more violent. In the end the stock rises far ahead of the launch and falls before the release day. This pre-emption means the market is highly random from day to day.

Before the news about Jobs' health broke I wrote that the stock looked good for $400; after the news I wrote that the level at the time would be the top of the share price. I still think Jobs is the magic behind Apple and without him Apple will be company with a normal valuation.

Many investors have decided this is not the case and that Apple is a corporate genius; this is the key choice that shareholders need to address.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> LIGHTNING FAST I/O

Thunderbolt strikes

LaCie ships world-first Thunderbolt drives

LaCie has introduced the world's first Thunderbolt-equipped peripheral following Apple's move to offer support for the standard starting with the all-new MacBook Pro. The company says it worked closely with Apple and Intel to develop its high-capacity storage solution, the Little Big Disk with Thunderbolt.

Thunderbolt supports data and display protocols simultaneously over a single cable. It integrates both PCI Express and DisplayPort.

September last year, LaCie demonstrated a prototype storage product which achieved data throughput of 700MB/s while daisy-chained between a computer and display. As we know, Thunderbolt (known formerly as Light Peak) is capable of transfer rates superior to existing fibre channel links. It supports two 10GB/s bi-directional channels from a single port, meaning a full-length HD movie can be transferred in less than 30 seconds.

The other big advantage is that up to six peripherals can be daisy-chained together. With a focus on high-bandwidth professional content creation markets, future peripherals will include video camera, hard drives, displays and more. Even better, the connection standard is bus-powered – no need for power cables.

The drive also features two 250GB Intel 510 Series solid-state drives (SSD), making for even faster performance. The two SSDs are preconfigured as a Striped RAID Set. ●

LaCie beat the pack to release the first Thunderbolt-compatible drives.

>> AUDIO QUALITY

iTunes to go lossless

Apple working to introduce 24-bit tracks

Apple may introduce higher-resolution track sales through the iTunes Store as the company is reported to be in talks with labels to achieve permission for better-than-CD track downloads.

Apple is discussing offering music in 24-bits, as opposed to the compressed 16-bit tracks it sells today, according to music industry bigwig, Jimmy Iovine of Universal's Interscope-Geffen-A&M record label.

"We've gone back now at Universal, and we're changing our pipes to 24-bit. And Apple has been great," Iovine told CNN. "We're working with them and other digital services – download services – to change to 24-bit. And some of their electronic devices are going to be changed as well. So we have a long road ahead of us."

This is a big deal – CDs are encoded in 16-bit, while 24-bit is more akin to the quality of full studio recordings.

A move to offer songs at such high quality would please audiophiles and artists alike. Musicians have been known to complain that they spend their lives attempting to make music better, but the compression of digital audio makes it sound less good than it should. However, while most Macs can handle 24-bit audio, many older digital music players – including iPods – are unable to play music in the 24-bit format. ●

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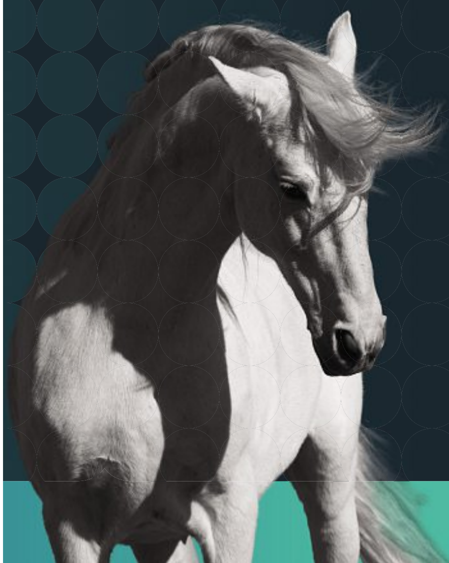

Win! a FRITZ!Box router and a FRITZ!Fon phone!

We have three amazing networking prize bundles to give away

Many computer users run their home network from a cheap and nasty router they got free from their ISP – and it's a false economy. FRITZ!Box devices show just how much better things can be with a quality ADSL router.

Hailing from Germany, the FRITZ!Box 7390 is AVM's flagship router. It has simultaneous dual band, so it can use the less-congested 5GHz waveband as well as the 2.4GHz band. Its traffic shaping features prioritise certain connections, so you can surf the web and use email during a big download; there's a built-in uPnP media streamer and it even has telephony features. The FRITZ!Fon MT-F is a stylish and attractive DECT phone that offers a host of extra features when paired with a FRITZ!Box DECT-compatible router.

Three lucky winners will each receive a FRITZ!Box 7390 and a FRITZ!Fon MT-F phone.

The question

To stand a chance of winning one of these superb prizes, just answer this simple question:

AVM FRITZ!Box products hail from which European country?

A) France

B) Germany

C) Spain

For more information on AVM's exciting FRITZ!Box range, point your browser at **www.avm.de/en**.

» HOW TO ENTER

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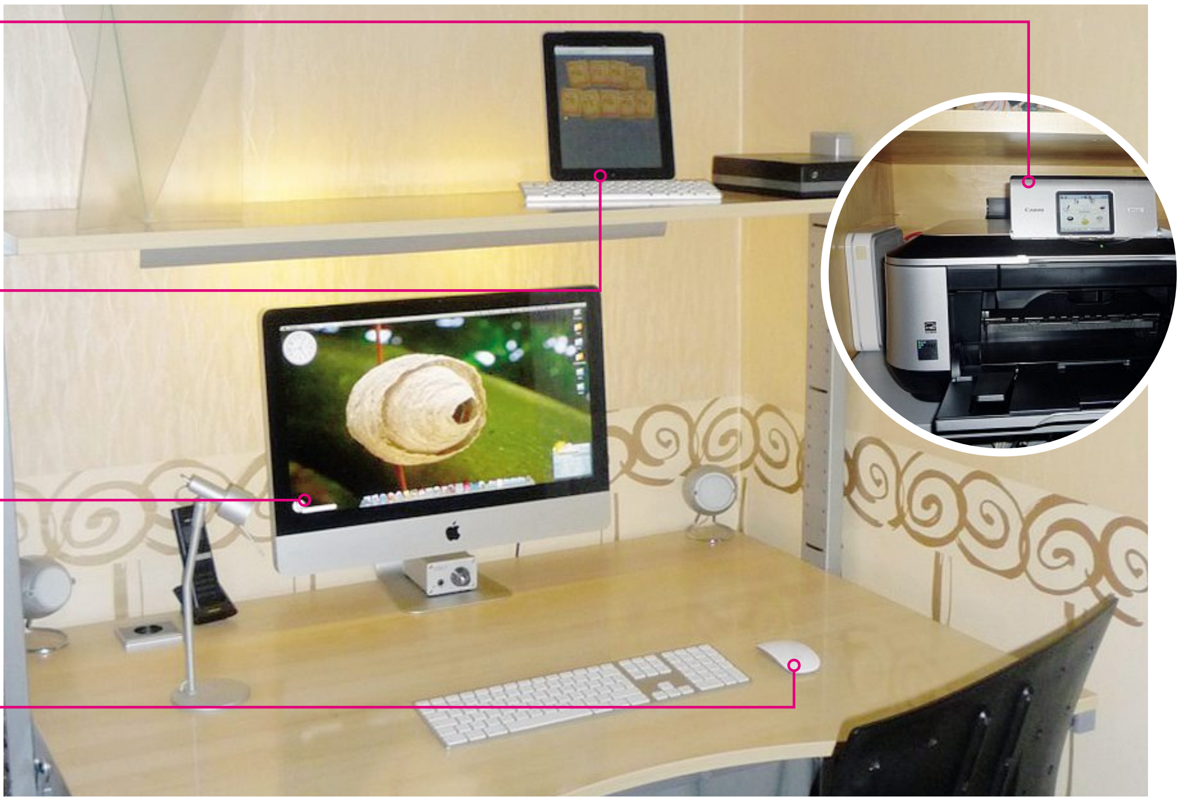
Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>>CONTACT US
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **laurence.cable@futurenet.com**



Canon Pixma MP640
This wireless multifunction device sits snugly next to an AirPort Extreme.

iPad 3G 32GB
When he's not out and about, Frans keeps his 3G iPad in this keyboard dock to charge it up.

iMac 21.5-inch 3.33GHz
Frans's speedy iMac has a 1TB hard drive and a whopping 8GB of RAM.

Apple Magic Mouse
Its shape may not be to everyone's tastes, but you can't argue: it's gorgeous.

>>PROFILE
Name: Frans Hens
Occupation: IT coordinator
Been using a Mac for: Four years
Favourite hardware: iMac
Favourite software: Skitch

The classic minimalist workplace plays to a Mac's aesthetic strengths, as Frans Hens's setup here shows. The Dutchman, an IT coordinator at a big multinational company, has been using PCs in his job since 1986, but switched his home setup to Mac OS in 2007.

It wasn't an entirely unexpected change, though, since Frans had actually dabbled in the Apple world many moons ago. "I'd used Apple products before in the form of an Apple II Europlus with two floppy drives," he explains.

Now that's going back a little way. The Europlus was the European version of one of Apple's earliest models, launched in the late 70s. It had a text-based interface, boasted a whole 48KB of RAM, and interestingly, its keyboard only enabled you to type in uppercase letters. Some three decades later, Frans is delighted to be back in the Mac world.

"I'd used Apple products before in the form of an Apple II Europlus with two floppy drives!"

"What I like about the iMac and the OS is the complete package. Both are aesthetically pleasing and easy to use, once the Windows method of using an OS has been deprogrammed," he says. "What I like somewhat less is the way OS X completely shields the user from the OS, if we leave the use of *Terminal* out of the question," Frans continues, speaking like the true IT pro that he is.

This hasn't stopped him buying into the Apple world wholeheartedly though. This iMac is his second since he switched, and Apple gear is evident throughout his house. "I've got a modified Apple TV, AirPort Extreme and AirPort Express," says Frans.

"I use the Express to stream music from the iMac to an Onkyo AV receiver." He's also got himself a 3G iPad with a keyboard docking station. And, of course, he's got an iPhone.

Away from his professional work with computers, Frans is a moderator on a couple of internet forums, and this topic brings us on to his favourite bit of software; it's no *iLife* or *iWork* product – but *Skitch*, a little tool for capturing and manipulating screenshots. "It's the most versatile and intuitive program to capture and post screen images I've come across," he enthuses.

And if you're scratching your head about that keyboard, Frans has tucked the wire in for the photo! ●

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LEFT: Charlie and Athena design stationary, greetings cards and letterheads on their iMacs.
ABOVE: They are then made into metal plates or dies which can be used to print on their vintage presses.

Interview: Alex Thomas

I use my Mac for vintage printing

We meet Meticulous Ink's Athena and Charlie: printers, typographers and Mac users.

»PROFILE

Name: Athena Cauley-Yu and Charlie Cumming
Location: Bath, UK
Occupation: Designer, typesetter and printer
System(s): 2.4GHz 24-inch iMac running Snow Leopard and a 3.2GHz 27-inch iMac
Web: www.meticulousink.com, twitter.com/Meticulous_Ink

MacFormat: Tell us about your shop, Meticulous Ink, and how you got started in printing?
Athena Cauley Yu: I'm a designer and typesetter, while [my partner] Charlie is also a designer/illustrator and printer. Both of us wanted to run our own creative business and we thought it the ideal combination to start a traditional printers.

MF: What Macs do you have and how long have you used Macs?
ACY: We both have iMacs, one being a slightly older 24-inch iMac running Snow Leopard with a 2.4GHz processor. The other is a new 27-inch iMac with a 3.2GHz Core i3 processor. We always have iMacs with the largest screens as it helps with the design and typesetting work. We've used Macs for seven years now.

MF: Why use a Mac and not a PC?
ACY: We both use Macs mainly for their functionality and general operation. As well as running the software that we use daily, and running them well, they're powerful, safe and easy to use. They're also very nice-looking machines.

MF: What programs do you use and which are your favourites?
ACY: We mainly use *Quark* and *Illustrator* to create the artwork; we both love *Illustrator* as it's great for design work and for getting things ready for print – although we are contemplating switching to *InDesign*.

MF: How does the Mac improve traditional printing and design?
ACY: The Mac replaces a large part of the traditional printing process, mainly within letterpress. With letterpress – in the traditional way – each individual metal letter would be composed and locked into a chase to create the form, and then printed; whereas with our Mac, we can design everything on there, in whichever typeface we want and using any image or motif we may have drawn. We then send it off to be made into a block, ready for print. Although the traditional way is the nicest way to do it, and is an extremely satisfying process, with our Macs we don't need to search the entire country looking for specific typefaces, and we can create our own illustrations and motifs with ease.

The only other item we have found difficult to find is an A3 scanner compatible with a Mac, which would be really useful. ●

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Gadgets

The hottest kit on the horizon for your Mac, iPhone and iPad…

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What is it? The latest in Sony's Bloggie range of mini camcorders offers high quality 1920x1080 MP4 video and still photo shooting, as well as web sharing features. But it can also capture in 3D – movies and photos can be played back without glasses on its 2.4-inch LCD screen, or with 3D glasses on any 3D-capable HDTV.

When's it due? April 2011

Why are we excited? If you're an enthusiast and already have a 3D TV, capturing friends and family in the three dimensions could be fun.

▼ TwelveSouth MagicWand

£25 www.twelvesouth.com

What is it? Ever wondered why Apple hasn't released a combined keyboard and trackpad? TwelveSouth certainly has. Its new MagicWand connects your Apple Wireless Keyboard to your Magic Trackpad, turning them into a stylish all-in-one input device. It's made of polycarbonate so it won't scratch either Apple peripheral, and can be used on the right or left of the wireless keyboard, but not on the USB model.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? It's such a good idea we can't think why no one thought of it before. If you'd rather your Magic Trackpad was anchored to your Wireless Keyboard, this handy little device is exactly what you need.

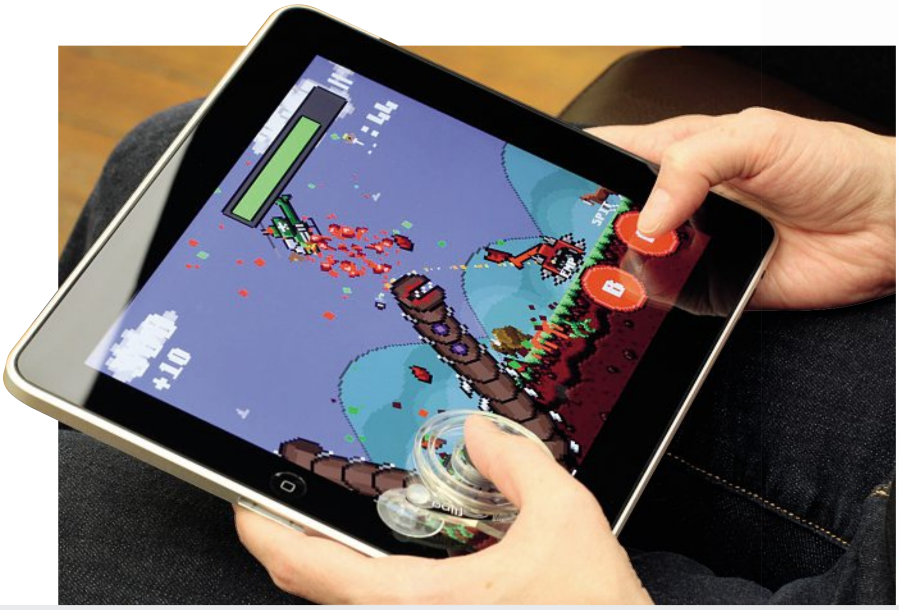
▶ Thumbs Up 80s Retro iPhone Case

£13 www.thumbsupuk.com

What is it? This iPhone carry-case turns your cutting-edge Apple device into an 80s mobile phone. It offers protection against bumps and scratches, doubles as a vertical and horizontal iPhone stand and is a great prop for fancy dress parties. Now you too can be Del Boy.

When's it due? April, for iPhones 3G, 3GS and 4.

Why are we excited? No 80s train journey would be complete without a tosser in a smart suit and tie shouting into his giant cellphone while scribbling notes in his Filofax. With this 80s Retro iPhone Case, you can relive those halcyon days.



▲ Fling Analog Joystick for iPad

£27 http://tenonedesign.com/fling

What is it? This sucker-mounted joystick works with any iPad game that uses a directional pad or a virtual joystick. You can even buy two and use them for dual-stick games such as *Geometry Wars*.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? The Fling Joystick could prove a boon for hard-core 'casual' gamers, but there's really no excuse for its current UK price, which is higher in pounds than the US price is in dollars. What gives?

fling
fling
fling

▼ LaCie Galet

£95 www.lacie.com/uk

What is it? A fiver shy of £100 might seem like a horrendous amount to pay for a 4GB flash drive, but you can't fault the Galet for style. LaCie has teamed up with French silversmiths Christofle, a company with a 150-year pedigree, to create this pebble-shaped, silver-plated device.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? Yes, we know it's just a 4GB USB thumb drive, but as Keats once said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever". Or at least until you leave it on the bus, or get it scratched to pieces by putting it in your pocket with your keys. Nasty…

LACIE Christofle
LACIE Christofle

▲ Zumreed X2 Hybrid Headphones

£TBA www.dynamic-distribution.net

What is it? A pair of headphones with a difference. Like all cans, they're designed to keep your sounds private so you can listen to your music without disturbing the room. But flick a switch and the Zumreed X2 Hybrid Headphones turn into external speakers.

When's it due? Expected in May.

Why are we excited? If you've ever used your cans as a de facto set of speakers by gathering your friends around them and cranking the volume up to eleven, you'll appreciate just how useful the X2 Hybrids could prove. Now you too can turn your bonce into a boombox.

SP
HP
POWER
ZUMREED

Feedback

>>CONTACT US

Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Wrong icon

Hello, I'm Marcus Page, aged 12. I really enjoyed your latest magazine, the March 2011 issue, but I couldn't help but notice that on your '30 Apple treasures' article there is an app with the wrong emblem. The Google Chrome app has the emblem for the *AppCleaner* software; if this is purposeful I apologise. This is the first time I have purchased the magazine, as I recently bought a 21.5-inch iMac with a Core i3 processor.

Marcus Page

MacFormat replies: Well spotted, Marcus – you are, of course, correct. But more importantly, congratulations on owning a Mac at such a young age! Incidentally, we've got a tutorial on the latest version of *Chrome* this issue on pages 60 and 61.

Chrome has become an interesting alternative to Safari for Mac owners.

The next step

In the early 90s, I was a passionate advocate of Steve Jobs' brainchild NeXTStep, the object-oriented operating system that originally only ran on proprietary black hardware, but was recently ported to run on Intel. In those days, the Intel 80486 processor was the latest, with a mighty 16-32MB RAM (pause for a stunned silence). However, my enthusiasm for NeXTStep was dulled when I was forced to face the bleak reality that the corporate world wanted *Microsoft Word* and *Excel* and nothing else would do. I was forced to tow the line.

Roll forward to 2010 and I bought an iMac after years of struggling with the various incarnations of Windows. Well, here we are, some 17 years later, with Windows 7 – which is, let's face it, a pretty darned stable operating system.

However, Windows never gives you a buzz. Windows is bland, it does what it says on the box, but never does it 'wow' you; and, frankly, nor did the Mac for the first nine months of its life with me. But now I can't imagine going back to Windows. To really appreciate OS X you have to live with it for a while; it's not obvious from day one, but (for the benefit of anybody else thinking of switching) here

>>STAR LETTER / Hard drive tips

Having finally gotten my hands on the latest issue of *MacFormat* (thanks to 20-plus inches of snow here in the USA), I was surprised and happy to see an article on upgrading your MacBook Pro hard drive. The sidebar should really start the article. That is: it's well worth buying an external case (for the old drive) or a drive caddy for quick plug and play, then restoring to the new drive while it is still outside of the laptop. The first time upgrading your hard drive can be a bit nervous, especially given the cost of the machine, but the feeling of elation could turn bad if the drive turns out to be a dud and has to be removed again. (Yes, I speak from experience there – in my case with a Mac mini.)

Also, I'd suggest utilising *SuperDuper!* or *Carbon Copy Cloner* for the task, as they'll generally clone the drive more quickly than a *Time Machine* backup/restore.

Kelly Firkins

Thinking of upgrading your MacBook Pro hard drive? Then check out MF231.

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the tips, Kelly, and we hope the snow drifts have abated somewhat.

>>STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic DTT Deluxe. Almost impossibly tiny, this little USB device give your Mac powerful digital TV reception.

are the things that I have grown to really value.

- OS X is so stable; it doesn't crash or freeze or even require rebooting every day just to keep going; it's perfect every time.
- I love the fact that I can keep her asleep overnight and, with a single click, she's back up and running instantly, just where I left off; I end up rebooting maybe once per week.
- If you haven't tried Spaces, you really should. Spaces enables you to effectively run multiple desktops, each with its own apps and windows, and then swap between each one instantly. It's fabulous.
- When I bought the iMac, I was sceptical about its 4GB RAM; I felt that I would need at least 8GB. The salesman assured me that 4GB was likely to be more than adequate. So, was he right? Well, with all my Spaces loaded with the apps I use daily, I use a fraction over 2GB. That's astounding!
- Finally, performance: it's absolutely fast enough for anything and everything I've managed to throw at it.

So, in summary, my real love and passion for the Mac began when I found a reason to use it daily, and then and only then, did I slowly start to realise how wonderful and rich this computer really is. I am just about to replace my four-year-old Dell laptop. So what do you reckon: a £500 replacement Dell or the new MacBook Pro? For me it's what's known as a 'no brainer' – the Mac has won me over in a significant way.
John Stephen

Seeing vertical lines on-screen? It might be your iMac's fault...

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the email, John. We couldn't have put it better ourselves.

30 treasures

In *MacFormat* issue 231, as part of your '30 Apple treasures' feature you recommend *r-name*, an essential free program that can perform batch file renaming. Problem is, where can I get it? All the download sites lead me nowhere!
Mike Pringle

» 30 APPLE TREASURES

30 APPLE TREASURES «

30 Apple treasures

The Mac App Store is here, but check out these free alternatives before you decide to splash the cash on expensive apps

MF231 went app-tastic with its '30 Apple treasures' feature.

MacFormat replies: Good point Mike. It is hard to find on the net, but we got our copy from http://osx.iusethis.com/app/r-name.

Vertical lines

Last August I wrote to you about a vertical line appearing on the screen of my early 2006 iMac, and Luis Villazon replied in the December 2010 issue of *MacFormat* (*MF228*).

You also passed on an email to me from another subscriber who had experienced the same problem and who had got his machine repaired for free in an Apple Store in England.

Since then, more vertical lines appeared on my screen and recently a white line appeared right down the middle, cutting the display in two. I knew then that I had to do something straight away.

I took my iMac into an Apple Authorised Service Provider in Cork expecting a bit of hassle and possibly a big bill. However, I was told that they thought Apple would probably cover it, but that they would have to ring up to confirm.

I can't tell you how pleased I was when, four days later, I got a call to say that my machine was ready for collection free of charge and that the display had been replaced with a brand-

»

Twitter talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
What do you think of the iPad 2 – thrive or dive?

@greggunner
"Thrive, but only on the strength of the first. Especially the white, where people want to advertise that they have the newest."

@Jet_Set_willy
"Dive, sadly. I want one, but waiting for next release, iPad 2 is more like iPad 1.2."

@pbyron
"iPad 2's faster dual-core processor is the most important update to a tablet yet and HDMI-out should set it apart for some time."

@BFCJez
"It'll thrive in the hands of musicians this time round with GarageBand addition. Interesting to see how many shoot HD footage!"

@CraigGrannell
"Thrive. And anyone who thinks different isn't really thinking at all."

@Oranje39
"iPad 2 will continue to dominate the tablet market. Why? One word: apps!"

@Future_Echoes
"Thrive. It's got more bells and whistles, which will please a lot of people."

@Allosunshine
"It will thrive but not quite as much as the iPad 1. Many will wait for the iPad 3."

You can find out what we're up to each month by following the team at Twitter.com/MacFormat

new one! I'm sending you this email because I thought you might like to hear that my problem has had a very successful outcome, and maybe also to give other iMac owners who have vertical lines appearing on their screens the confidence to get their problem sorted too.

Many thanks for all your help and a great magazine.

Catherine Osborne

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the email, Catherine, and consider our readers informed!

Short story

I've received my first issue of *MacFormat* as a subscriber and I'm very pleased. I've been picking it up every now and then at various airports, along with other Mac magazines, but *MacFormat* always comes out as the best one to read.

To cut a long story short: I love this magazine. Keep up the great work!

Lars

MacFormat replies: Thanks very much, Lars. And don't forget, you now get access to a PDF version of each new issue a week before it goes on sale in the shops – plus an archive of *MacFormat* magazines stretching back to issue 200 – now you've become a subscriber to the UK's best selling Mac magazine! See page 30 for our latest subscription offers.

READER PROFILE / Spanning the generation gap

I've been reading *MacFormat* for only the second time in my life and thought you might enjoy the attached, totally unposed photo. I am aged 75 and my grandson Ben is just three years old.

I bought an iPad last April and then an iMac at Christmas – before that I was strictly PC! The iPad really is a revolution – now I'm able to read *The Times* every morning over breakfast and then catch up with my emails. I even used it in bed to buy something from a man in Ohio on eBay, but my wife didn't approve of that!

John A Stringer

Grandfather John Stringer, 75, and his three-year-old grandson, Ben Fitzsimons, span generations with an iPad. Got a snap of you and your Apple device? Send it to macformat@futurenet.com.

iCan compute

Regarding recent debates about whether the iPad is a 'real computer' or not, it seems fairly clear to me that the question isn't actually about whether an iPad (or similar) can replace a conventional computer, but rather how long it'll be before conventional computers are in the minority in both the home and the workplace.

Granted, there are some areas of endeavour where (currently) you wouldn't want to move entirely to a tablet, and indeed some situations/environments where you'd be more productive with a conventional computer setup – those requiring access to many peripherals, large amounts of screen-space, or extremely resource-intensive tasks – but there's nothing inherently unsuitable about tablets for these tasks; it's simply a matter of current connectivity or the availability of suitable interfaces.

Already there are thousands of apps available for iOS which demonstrate that an iPad is capable of performing any number of activities you'd previously have required a conventional computer for. So the viability really comes down to the person's willingness to embrace the technology, and not engage in static thinking.

Matt Gemmell

MacFormat replies: That's a great point, Matt. Steve Jobs talked about the "post-PC device" era in his keynote at the launch of the iPad 2, and tablets are definitely where all the momentum is in the PC market. 2011 looks like it will be an exciting one for tablet fans, with competition from rivals like RIM and HP, and new Android tablets finally hitting the market. Although, with the iPad, Apple has such a head start that it's still going to take competitors a long time to catch up. ●

APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

iPHONE, iPAD DEVCON, Boston

4-6 April 2011

A day of intensive workshops followed by two days of technical classes, with a focus on enterprise and managing apps.

MUSIKMESSE, FRANKFURT

6-9 April 2011

One of the world's leading events for music creation and production.

GADGET SHOW LIVE, Birmingham

13-17 April 2011

Now in its third year at the NEC, UK consumer electronics event Gadget Show Live promises more exhibitors and more new products than ever before.

NAB, Las Vegas

9-14 April, 2011

The world's leading digital media event for video, audio and entertainment professionals; an essential date in Apple's diary.

MACFORMAT

Issue 234, 27 April

Everything Apple inside the best-selling UK Mac magazine – don't miss the next issue.

WWDC, San Francisco

June, 2011

Apple's annual developer jamboree hasn't actually been announced yet, but this year surely promises to be something else. We can look forward to none other than OS X Lion prowling among the iOS developers.

IBC EXHIBITION, Amsterdam

9-13 September

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Words: Graham Barlow **Photography:** Apple, Christopher Phin, Nick Peers

Hands-on with the iPad 2

MacFormat attended the iPad 2 launch and got some quality time with Apple's latest tablet. So what's it like? Read on…

The first thing you notice about the iPad 2 is how much lighter it feels in your hand than its predecessor. It's only lost 0.2lbs, but on a device that weighed just 1.3lbs, that's a significant amount. Its tapered edges, reminiscent of the new MacBook Air, also help, because they make it easier to hold the iPad than ever before. It doesn't quite "float in your hand," as Steve Jobs suggested, but it's a definite improvement to a device that did feel a bit on the heavy side if held too long.

Besides that, not much else has changed in the iPad's basic design in this, its second coming. The screen size is exactly the same, at 9.7-inches with a 1024x768 resolution, and the capacity sizes (and even the price) haven't changed either. Sometimes no change can be a good thing though, because despite being 33% thinner than the original, it still has the same great 10-hour battery life that none of its rivals have so far managed to beat.

There are no extra ports (some of us were hoping for USB or even a ThunderBolt port) and no extra buttons. In fact, you hardly notice the addition of its two new cameras – a rear-facing high resolution camera capable of 720p HD video recording at 30 frames per second, and a lower resolution, forward-facing VGA camera for FaceTime chats – since they're such discreet lenses. So what makes the iPad 2 so special?

Put simply: speed. The new A5 chip that forms the beating heart of the iPad 2 has a dual-core processor, which offers potentially twice the speed of the previous A4 chip. It also boasts graphics performance that's nine times as fast as its predecessor. Whenever we hear specs like these though, we often wonder what they amount to in real life. How fast, for instance, does an iPad need to be to write or read an email? Of course, the only way to find out was to get hands-on and give it a go, so that's what we did – and here's what we discovered…

> *"Apple had staff on standby in Cupertino ready to use FaceTime with us, and within a few seconds we were chatting away"*

Face to face with Cupertino

FaceTime, Apple's video chat application, which was recently released for the Mac at 59p from the Mac App Store, comes as part of the iOS 4.3 update, and it was one of the first things we tried out. Apple had several members of staff on standby in Cupertino ready to use *FaceTime* with us, so we picked a person at random and within a few seconds we were connected and chatting away about the weather in California (cloudy, in case you were wondering). *FaceTime* is a fullscreen app, so you're not looking at somebody trapped in a little box. A little picture-in-picture-style window, which you can move around the screen with your finger should it appear in an inconvenient place, shows how you look to them as you're talking. Holding the iPad so your caller isn't looking up your nose is definitely an issue, but you soon get used to angling it slightly lower than you'd expect to, so you get more eye contact.

The iPad's new A5 chip with its significantly faster graphics processing is obviously doing a good job, because our video call had hardly any lag. Looking at Apple's press shots of *FaceTime* in action, you'd be forgiven for thinking that all calls are made in glorious HD, but VGA resolution is only 640x480, so things look decidedly more pixellated than Apple would have you believe.

It's still totally usable though, and the iPad makes the perfect video phone – way better than an iPhone 4 simply because it has a larger screen. Currently you have to be connected to a Wi-Fi connection to use *FaceTime* – we would hope that this gets extended to 3G networks at some point, since apps like *Skype* on the iPhone already let you video-chat over 3G, and connect to users on PC laptops. Currently *FaceTime* works on the iPad 2, iPhone 4 and the Mac only, and while it's brilliant, without access to the millions of PC users out there it feels like an unnecessarily crippled service.

»

OUR TRIP TO HAWAII
KAUAI ISLAND

01

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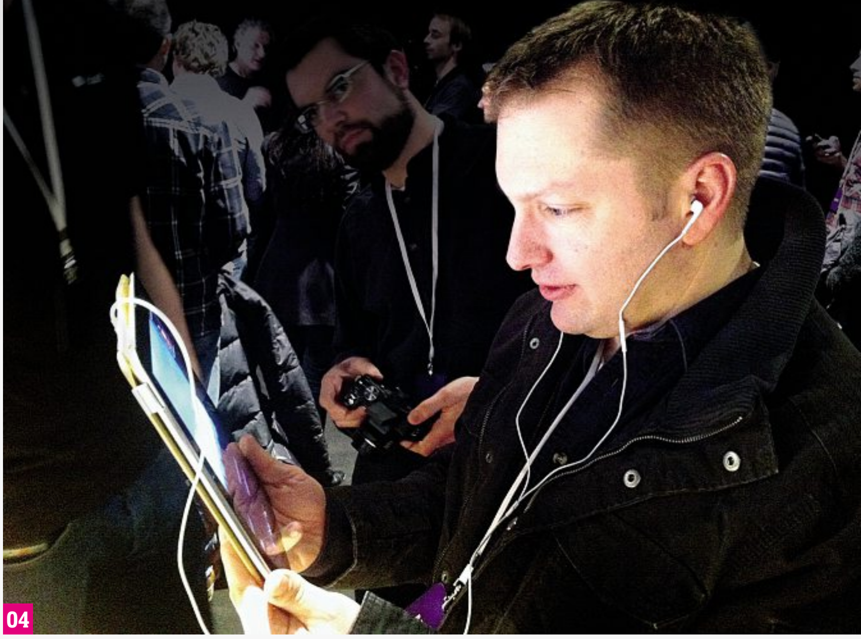


04

[01] **The new Smart Cover folds into an upright stand for watching movies on.**

[02] **Christopher Phin, editor of our sister mag Tap!, enjoying some quality time with the new iPad 2.**

[03] **The new Smart Cover can also prop the iPad up into a comfortable position for typing an email.**

[04] **Editor Graham checking out the cloud cover in Cupertino on Apple's new iPad 2.**

In addition to *FaceTime*, the iPad 2 comes with *Photo Booth*, which most Mac owners will already be familiar with from OS X – it enables you to have fun with a picture of your face, using some crazy effects. It's not a particularly useful app, but it's good for keeping the kids amused.

At the movies

Two big features of Steve Jobs' keynote address at the launch of the iPad 2 were the new *iMovie* and *GarageBand* apps. Frankly, they both look great, so we were keen to try them out as soon as possible. We fired up *iMovie* first. Luckily Apple had pre-loaded the iPad with a few *iMovie* projects, so we could experiment with the new Precision Editor, which enables you to cut between clips at just the right moment; there are also a great array of themes and transitions. The *iMovie* app looks and feels just like the Mac version, but without the traditional menu bar or any of the drop-down menus. Instead everything is controlled by gestures like tap, double-tap and tap-and-hold. Trimming and dragging clips is as intuitive as you'd expect, but everything else is initially baffling. Still, once you start to get your head around how it works the full power of this app starts to shine through. The fact that Apple has managed to cram so much functionality into a touchscreen app is simply mind-blowing. Video footage can be added to your iPad by syncing with *iTunes*, and you can, of course, record and edit movies you've taken on the device using the iPad's HD camera. In fact, any video you shoot on your iPad 2 automatically appears in the *iMovie* library, but the really cool thing is you can share *iMovie* projects between your Mac, iPhone and iPad. The sharing options are great too, enabling you to upload your finished movie project online to the usual sites – YouTube, Facebook and MobileMe – in just a few minutes. But you can also use AirPlay to stream to an Apple TV, which is a great way to instantly enjoy your movie on a big screen.

> *"Two big features of Steve Jobs' keynote at the launch of the iPad 2 were the new iMovie and GarageBand apps"*

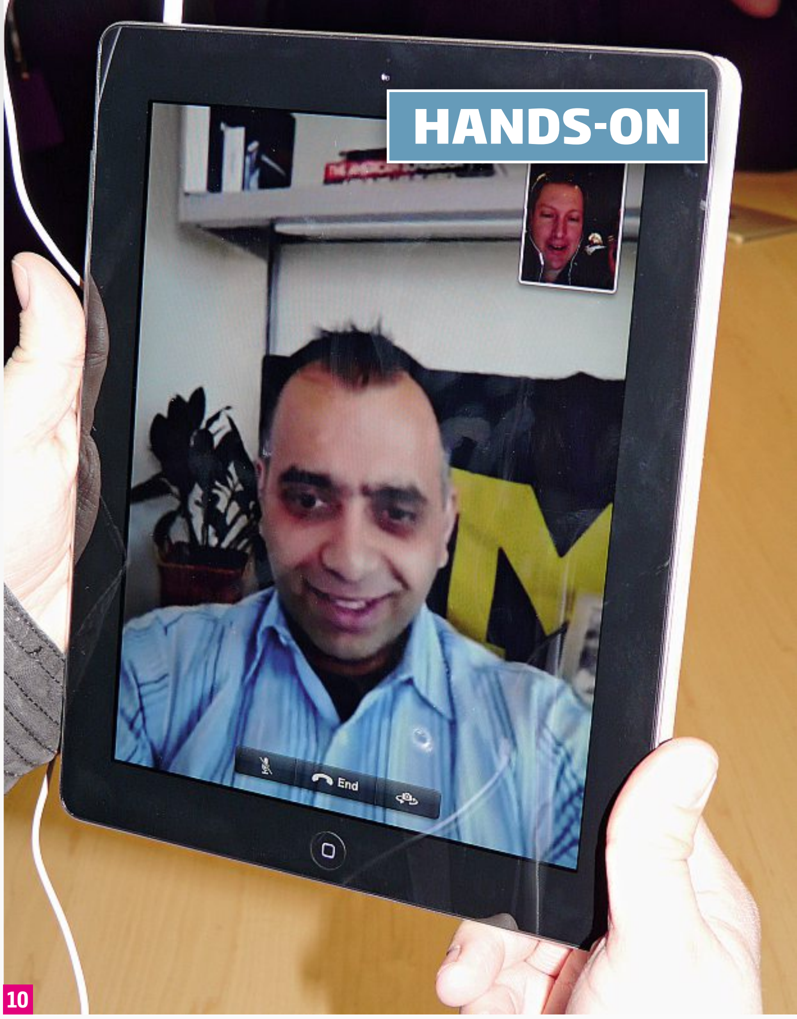
The audio editing in the iPad version of *iMovie* is especially accomplished, with the ability to have the sound of each clip, plus some background music and a voiceover, all playing simultaneously. Obviously, *iMovie* on the iPad isn't as fully featured as *iMovie* on the Mac, but heck, it's not that far off. We're impressed. Sadly, since it requires the additional speed and graphics processing of the new A5 chip

» A SPECIAL CASE / We're all giddy about the new iPad 2 Smart Covers – here's why…

All the iPad 2 demo units we had access to were boasting another new innovation from Apple: Smart Covers, which have more to them than meets the eye. It might seem strange to want to wax lyrical about a fancy iPad cover, but these new Smart Covers are a genuine innovation, and they feel much more like part of the iPad itself, rather than simply an accessory. Smart Covers come in either leather or polyurethane and in a range of five colours. They essentially cover the glass surface of the iPad but leave the back open so they don't interfere with the iPad's good looks. They snap onto the left-hand side of the iPad 2 courtesy of two special magnets that have been built into the iPad itself, so it's easy to add them and take them off. The clever bit is that when you pull the cover across the iPad's screen it automatically puts the iPad to sleep and when the cover is opened it wakes it up again. It's hard to do Smart Covers justice in words (you have to see them in action to really get it), but they've instantly become our favourite iPad case.

Another great accessory available for the iPad 2 is the Apple Digital AV Adapter, which offers video out at 1080p and mirroring of whatever is on the iPad's screen to a HDMI display. Teachers have been waiting for this one, and the good news is that it works with the original iPad, too – as well as with the iPhone 4 or latest iPod touch, though you'll only be able to output video at 720p using them, and you can't mirror the display, as you can on an iPad 2.

Apple has taken a leaf out of its own book to come up with a sleek case to match the iPad 2's svelte dimensions.



to work its magic, you won't be able to run *iMovie* on the original iPad.

Music maestro, please!

From the presentation we had witnessed, *GarageBand* looked even more impressive than *iMovie*, so that was naturally our next port of call. *GarageBand* gives you an eight-track recording studio on your iPad – the interface will be familiar to anybody used to the Mac version, and again, your projects are transferable between iPad and Mac. On its own that would be impressive enough (remember, The Beatles' *Sergeant Pepper* album was recorded on a four-track machine the size of a washing machine!) but *GarageBand* on the iPad adds in some new features that aren't even found on the Mac version.

The first of these is the instruments you get to tap out tunes on. There are a choice of three acoustic drum kits, drum machines, several keyboards, including a grand piano and organ, and a synthesizer, and there are also more than 70 modern and vintage synthesizer sounds to choose from. The really clever part is that *GarageBand* makes use of the iPad's accelerometer to register how hard you tap, so you can play piano softly or loudly and hear the difference. We were quite keen to try out the keyboards, since a lot of the piano apps we've played never seem to quite work on the iPad's screen – it seems to be difficult to find the correct balance between offering a number of octaves and a good key size. But a quick play around with the Soul Organ in *GarageBand* revealed that Apple has got it right here – the keys are on the small side, but you can actually play on them properly. (And the Soul Organ sounds fantastic!)

> *"GarageBand offers an eight-track recording studio on your iPad – the interface will be familiar to Mac users"*

Another of the features that people are understandably excited about is Smart Instruments – these offer people who can't play an instrument an easy way to fake it. Simply pick a chord and *GarageBand* will strum it for you. It will even finger-pick the chord notes, which will be useful for singers who need to create a simple backing track to sing over. Smart Instruments work for guitar, keyboards, bass and drums.

In all, *GarageBand* on the iPad 2 looks like it's going to be an absolute blast, and one of those apps that persuades people to buy one of the devices. And if you're wondering how to plug a real guitar or keyboard into an iPad 2, then the solutions already exist in a number of cables offered by iRig and Griffin.

In store now

On the whole, the iPad 2 delivers what was expected of it: we knew Apple would make it thinner (doesn't it always?) and faster, and put in a camera. We're a little disappointed that some of the more radical suggestions about what it might contain, like wireless backup and syncing, have fallen by the wayside, but maybe they'll be picked up for iPad 3, which will inevitably be released next year. We didn't have the iPad long enough to perform a full test – especially of the battery – so look out for our full review in next issue of *MacFormat*, on sale 27 April, when we'll have a full report after having had one to test for a few weeks.

Of course, the best way to find out what an iPad 2 is really like is to try one for yourself. From 25 March you'll be able to stroll along to your local Apple Store or Apple Premium Reseller and try one out. But beware – if the first on-sale day of the first iPad is anything to go by, you might end up having to wait in a rather large queue if you want to buy one! ●

[05] The UK's media get hands-on with Apple's latest tablet.

[06] Lighter and thinner than ever before, the new iPad still has the familiar Dock connector port.

[07] The new rear-facing camera is capable of 720p HD recording at 30fps.

[08] The Smart Cover attaches to concealed magnets in the iPad's side, so it pops on and off.

[09] Photo Booth on the iPad works just like the Mac version and makes good use of the iPad.

[10] The FaceTime app works full screen, and you have the option of switching between the front and rear cameras.

They may look the same on the outside, but the new MacBook Pro range boasts completely revamped technology.

Words: Ian Osborne and Graham Barlow

MacFormat investigates

New technology in the MacBook Pros

Apple's new MacBook Pro has some exciting new tech under the bonnet. We take a look at what it all means…

Thunderbolt and Sandy Bridge might sound like opening acts at an early 70s rock festival, but they're bang up to date and both are important features of the amazing new MacBook Pro line-up from Apple (see our review on page 86). By including these new technologies Apple is keeping its kit at the forefront of PC design, and opening up some tantalising possibilities for what you'll be able to do with a Mac in the future. Thunderbolt in particular offers some startling possibilities because of its amazingly high data transfer speeds. Let's find out more.

Thunderbolt

Intel Labs' brief for Thunderbolt was very simple; create a connectivity technology that covers both data input and output at unprecedented speeds, and make it compatible with just about anything. And as the Thunderbolt port makes its Mac debut in the February 2011 MacBook Pros, we can see Intel succeeded admirably.

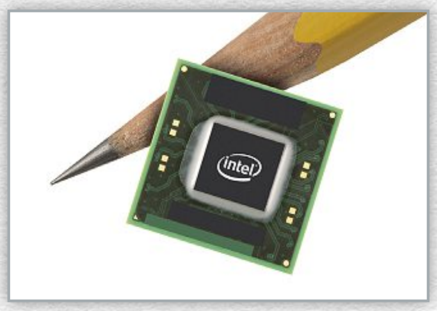
Previously known by the codename Light Peak and developed in close collaboration with Apple, Thunderbolt lets you daisy chain up to six high-performance peripherals using a single port. As Thunderbolt is based on PCI Express and DisplayPort technologies, it can be used for high-resolution displays as well as storage devices.

Thunderbolt cables may be electrical or optical, with both using the same Thunderbolt connector. Electrical cables (which Intel believes most vendors will favour) can be up to three metres in length, though optical cables can be much longer, measuring tens of metres. These are likely to prove useful in offices and other business environments. An electrical Thunderbolt cable can carry around 10 watts of power, which is around four times as much as USB 2.0, so can comfortably run bus-powered devices like portable drives.

Because it's dual-channel and bi-directional, Thunderbolt can send and receive data at the same time without loss of speed. Its maximum throughput is 10Gbps in both directions, which is double the speeds offered by USB 3.0, four times as fast as an Express Card and 12-and-a-half times quicker than FireWire 800 – yes, it's that good! If you're used to transferring data using a traditional USB 2.0 port, Thunderbolt's speed advantage is even more pronounced, being over 20 times faster.

In the real world, these speeds mean a Thunderbolt connection can transfer a full-length 1080p HD movie from an external hard drive to your MacBook Pro's internal hard drive (or vice versa) in around 30 seconds.

Thunderbolt cables can daisy chain up to six peripherals for each port, freeing up port space on your notebook.



Intel's tiny but incredibly powerful Thunderbolt controller, the future of high-speed data transfer.

As well as storage, you can connect your display through a Thunderbolt port. It provides native support for Mini DisplayPort monitors, and you can connect a DisplayPort, DVI, HDMI or VGA screen using existing adapters, so you don't need to buy a new display to take advantage of the Thunderbolt port. It can handle higher-than-HD pixel resolutions and up to eight channels of audio. It's low-latency, so data is transferred across a Thunderbolt connection quickly; it also gives accurate time synchronisation, making it ideal for video editors.

One thing Thunderbolt won't do is render existing peripherals obsolete. Using third-party adapters, which are bound to appear on the shelves soon, you can connect USB, FireWire 400 and FireWire 800 devices to your Mac's Thunderbolt port, and possibly Gigabit Ethernet too. Naturally, they won't benefit from the speed advantages offered by the new input/output technology. USB 2.0 devices, for example, will still chug along at speeds of up to 480Mbps, a far cry from the 10Gbps offered by Thunderbolt.

Although Apple doesn't comment on future releases, we think it's safe to assume Thunderbolt will feature in every new Mac refresh from now on. In fact, it could one day replace every connectivity port. With each Thunderbolt port capable of running up to six daisy-chained peripherals, the number of I/O ports on Apple notebooks could be reduced, allowing for thinner, lighter computers. It's an exciting thought.

intel inside
intel inside
CORE i3

Intel vice president and general manager Mooly Eden unveils the second generation of Core-i processors.

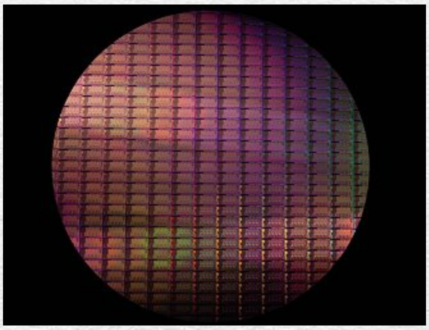
Sandy Bridge

Sandy Bridge is the codename for Intel's second-generation Core-i series of processors. According to the California-based semiconductor giant, it 'represents the biggest advance in computing performance and capabilities over any other previous generation'. Based on Intel's 32-nanometer process technology, a second-generation Sandy Bridge Core-i processor contains almost a billion transistors.

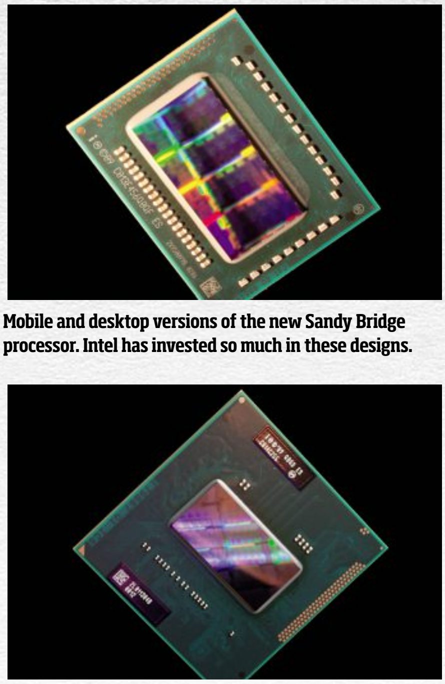
The new Core-i CPUs combine the processor, cache, memory controller and graphics engine on a single chip. This means data doesn't have to travel as far, making for increased performance and efficiency. For example, the integrated memory controller means each of the chip's processing cores (of which there are two or four in the MacBook Pros' Sandy Bridge chips) spends less time waiting for data to arrive, helping your applications to run smoothly and optimally. Thanks to the new micro architecture, content creation is up to 42% faster than the last generation of chips, and gaming up to 50% faster.

> *"The new Core-i CPUs combine the processor, cache, memory controller and graphics engine on a single chip"*

Sandy Bridge takes a new look at the Core-i chips' Turbo Boost technology. Turbo Boost 2.0 shifts core frequency in smaller increments than before, allowing the processor to manage performance without sacrificing efficiency. Turbo Boost automatically reallocates processing resources, tailoring a workload to the task in hand and giving an immediate performance acceleration when needed. For example, the dual-core 2.3GHz Core i5 processor used in the new entry-level 13-inch MacBook Pro can be turbo-boosted up to 2.9GHz, and at the other end of the MacBook Pro scale, the most powerful off-the-shelf 17-inch model has a quad-core 2.2GHz Core i7, which can reach 3.3GHz under Turbo Boost 2.0.



A wafer of new Intel Sandy Bridge processors. There are close to a billion transistors in a single second-gen chip.



Mobile and desktop versions of the new Sandy Bridge processor. Intel has invested so much in these designs.

All Sandy Bridge mobile processors include hyper-threading, a feature that's now standard on every MacBook Pro. This lets two threads run simultaneously on each of the processor's cores, allowing it to work on two tasks at once. So a dual-core Core-i series processor has four virtual cores, and a quad-core chip has eight. This allows concurrent tasks to be more evenly spread across a greater number of cores.

Those who closely follow technology news might remember a recall of Sandy Bridge processors back in January, due to a problem with the SATA controller. We're assured these issues do not affect the processors used in the early 2011 MacBook Pros.

The second-generation Core-i processors – or Sandy Bridge – offer more power and greater energy efficiency than their predecessors. The new chips debut in the new MacBook Pros, but could well make their way across the Apple range over time. With Intel's new HD Graphics 3000 integrated chipset able to hold its own without the need for an NVIDIA integrated solution, it's possible for Macs whose logic boards are too small to fit a discrete GPU to move over to Core-i chips. The 13-inch MacBook Pro has done just that. Could the Mac mini, MacBook Air and MacBook soon follow suit? Only time will tell. ●

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Get creative!

Ever felt like writing a song and recording it to CD, then making a video to go with it and syncing them together on a DVD? How about making a slideshow or a movie based on your own uploaded photographs and footage? You could publish it on your own website. It's all possible using the powerful *iLife* suite that comes with every Mac, and the guide will help you get to grips with all of the *iLife* apps - *iPhoto, iMovie, GarageBand, iWeb* and *iDVD*.

There's so much more you can do with a Mac - and it doesn't mean having to invest in expensive software or hardware. Whether you're new to the Mac or a Mac veteran, the book will show you how to get the best from OS X.

A world of adventure

Even if your software's not bang up to date, don't worry: we've included tutorials for *iLife '08* as well as *iLife '09*. But if your operating system is up to date, you'll be pleased to find that Snow Leopard is covered. This book is jam-packed with ideas and easy-to-follow, non-geeky guides to enable you to get the most out of your Mac, from souping it up to lightning speeds and making it even easier to use, to displaying your latest masterpieces on your own website. A world of adventure awaits once you subscribe to *MacFormat*!

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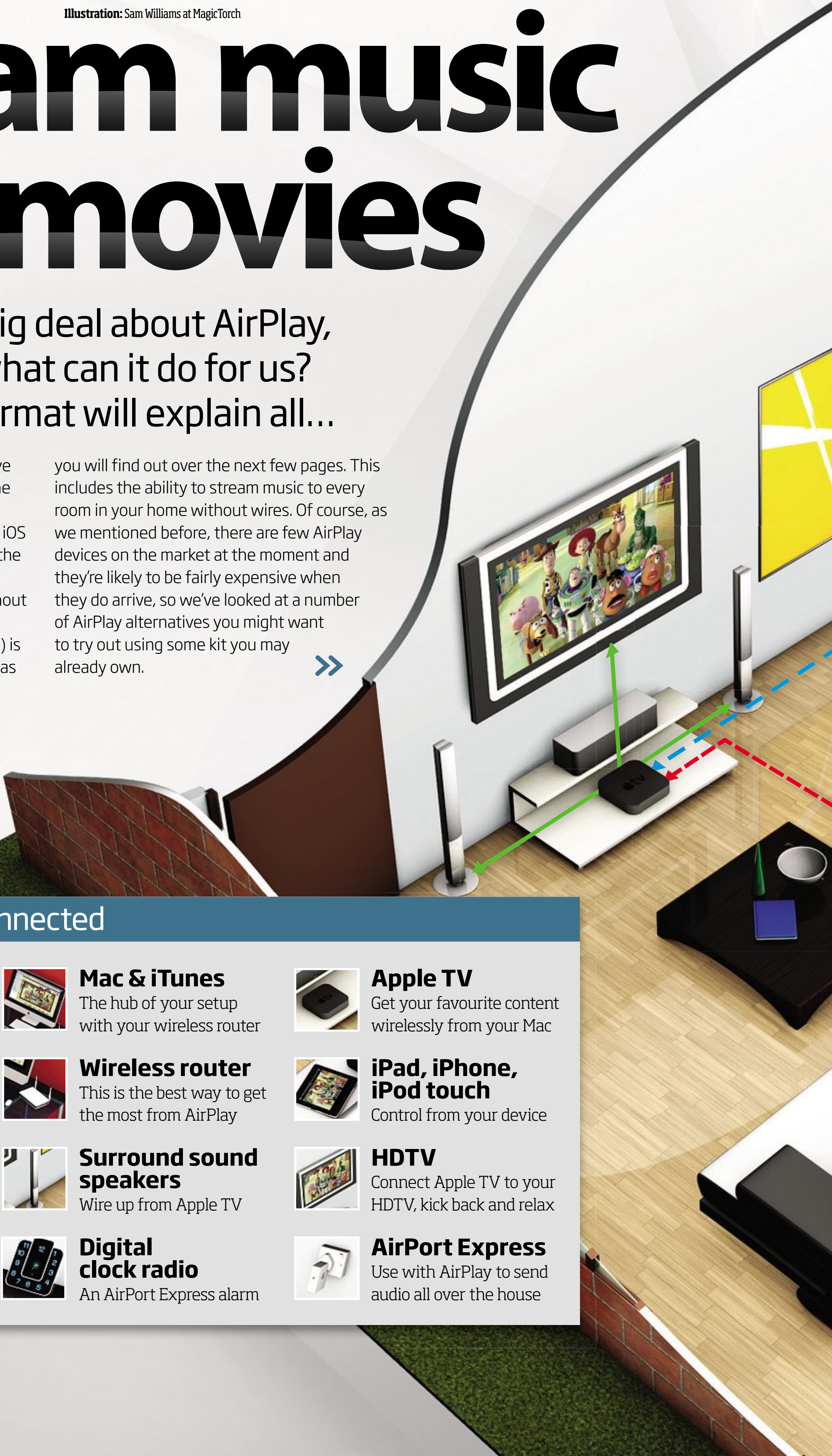
Words: Ben Harvell and Laurence Cable
Illustration: Sam Williams at MagicTorch

Stream music and movies

Apple has made a big deal about AirPlay, but what is it and what can it do for us? Read on and MacFormat will explain all…

AirPlay was originally demoed by Steve Jobs during the announcement of the new Apple TV, but then its memory slipped away. Maybe it was the long wait for iOS 4.2 that dulled its impact, or perhaps it was the lack of AirPlay-compatible devices on the market. Either way, this is a technology to shout about. While streaming a video from your iPhone to your Apple TV (as shown by Steve) is great, there are many more uses for AirPlay, as you will find out over the next few pages. This includes the ability to stream music to every room in your home without wires. Of course, as we mentioned before, there are few AirPlay devices on the market at the moment and they're likely to be fairly expensive when they do arrive, so we've looked at a number of AirPlay alternatives you might want to try out using some kit you may already own. >>



>> KEY INFO / Get connected

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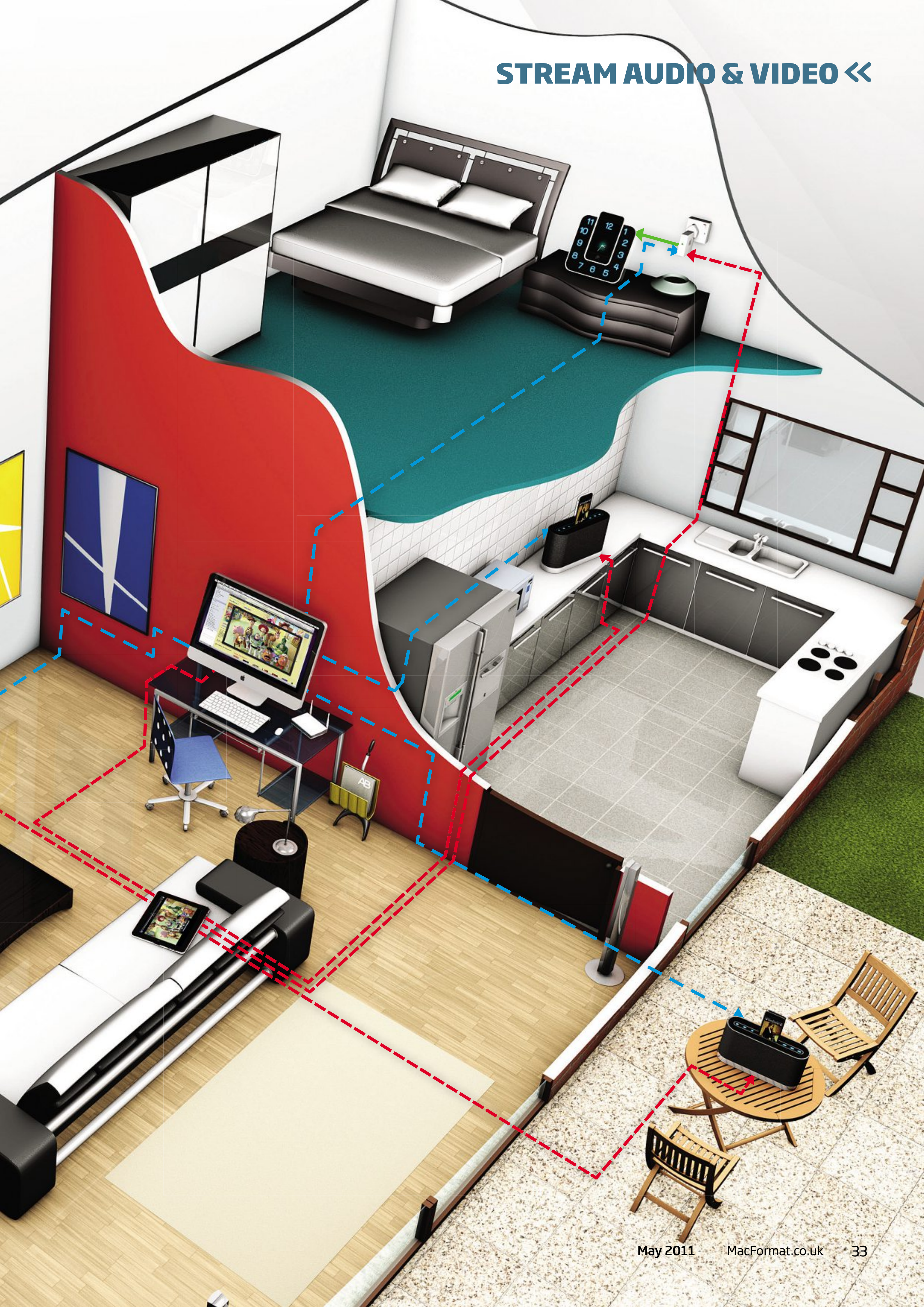
Control from your device

HDTV
Connect Apple TV to your HDTV, kick back and relax

AirPort Express
Use with AirPlay to send audio all over the house



What is AirPlay?

An exciting way to stream your content around the house, explained

Apple's first real foray into streaming digital media wirelessly was with the AirTunes technology found within its AirPort Express Base Station. The technology wasn't widely promoted and required a headphone jack running to the line-in port on a compatible speaker system in order to stream music from your Mac.

Then, with the launch of the new Apple TV and iOS 4.2, AirTunes became AirPlay, a more advanced adaptation of the technology that enables the streaming of audio, video and images between computers, iPhones, iPads and TVs without the need for cables.

Previously, companies such as Sonos ruled the home-streaming market but now Apple has made multi-room audio a more affordable option than buying a complete system. As this feature will explain, you will likely have a number of machines that can help you create a network of AirPlay speakers and devices and, with a little work, you can even bring non-AirPlay devices into the mix. In layman's terms, AirPlay is a way for you to control the media you play and the devices you play it on from one central location and, most importantly, without wires.

For example, let's say you start watching the latest episode of *30 Rock* on your iPhone while on the bus. The episode hasn't quite finished by the time you get home so, using AirPlay, you can drop onto the couch and stream the remainder of the episode from your iPhone to your Apple TV. The same applies to music: using AirPlay compatible devices, your Apple TV and available Macs, you can send music to speakers located anywhere in your home or office, even multiple speakers in multiple rooms.

Control the media you play and get content onto your Apple TV and other devices via AirPlay.

glee
TV PG
HD
Preview
$0.99
Rent HD
Viewers Also Rented
Lie to me
Top Gear
Cleveland Show
Brothers & Sisters
Doctor Who
Grey's Anatomy
Castle
tv

6. The Rhodes Not Taken

Glee, Season 1

Will thinks the glee club desperately needs more of an edge, so he brings in his former classmate, April Rhodes (guest star Chenoweth), to spice things up. Will's plan seems to be going smoothly until he realizes he may be losing a key member of the club. Musical performances include "Somebody to Love", "Maybe This Time", "Alone" and "Last Name".

Released 9/30/09
43 minutes
Fox
★★★★★ (13859)

You have the hardware, just make sure your software is updated and you should be ready to AirPlay!

What you'll need

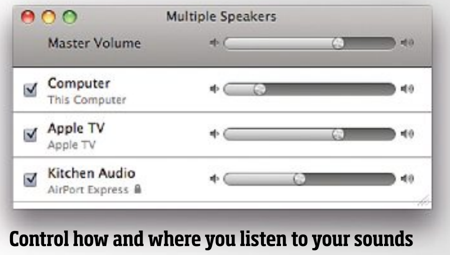
You probably have AirPlay ready to go without knowing it. You'll need the latest *iTunes* and the most recent iOS software for your devices. To make sure you're up to date, run *Software Update*. Next, connect your iPhone, iPod or iPad to your Mac and click on the Check For Update button in the Summary window in *iTunes*. If there's a new version of the iOS software, download and install it. Finally, if you're using an Apple TV, turn it on and head to the Settings screen. Click on the Update Software option to ensure you're up to date. You should now be AirPlay compatible in the software stakes – now for the hardware side. The centrepiece of your AirPlay experience will likely be your Mac. From *iTunes 10* you can push media to any connected devices such as Apple TV, or compatible third-party speakers. However, there are ways to include non-AirPlay devices (see page 36).

AirPlay works best using Wi-Fi, so ideally you'll have an existing network set up. However, you can go via Ethernet, but it won't be as impressive as the ability to stream from iPhones, iPods and the iPad. Assuming you have a Wi-Fi network up and running, the more AirPlay compatible devices you own the better your experience will be. The simplest setup will be a Mac, Apple TV and iPhone connected to the same network. Using this setup, you'll not only be able to watch movies from your Mac on your Apple TV but you'll also be able to control them with Apple's *Remote* app for iPhone, as well as stream video to your TV from your iPhone. And why not add an iPad plus multiple speakers that are AirPlay-compatible or connected via an AirPort Express Base Station? AirPort Express Base Stations appear as AirPlay devices in iTunes, as do compatible hardware devices.

Streaming audio

Once you're connected to various rooms in the house, you can stream to all or some of your speakers. Let's say you're listening to a podcast in front of your Mac and decide to make a cup of tea. Rather than pause the podcast until you return, you can send it via AirPlay to the speakers in your kitchen and continue listening while the kettle boils. AirPlay is also great for parties, allowing you to stream music to rooms containing compatible speakers.

If you're using AirPlay with an AirPort Express Base Station you can even send audio to multiple speakers using an adapter to split the signal into two and run an audio jack to each set of speakers. As well as accessing your *iTunes* content and music stored on your iPhone or iPad, you can use music apps such as Pandora to stream music to your AirPlay speakers or Apple TV. And as more and more applications catch on, it won't be long before most radio and music apps can push their media to different rooms in your home.



Control how and where you listen to your sounds all around the house… and even in the garden.

Toy Story 3
Pixar
0:54
-0:44
toy story 3
Apple TV

Streaming video & slideshows

As well as music, you can also stream movies and slideshows from your iPhone or iPad to the Apple TV and, with any luck, we'll soon be seeing AirPlay-compatible digital picture frames as well.

At present there are no AirPlay-enabled video devices on the market, so you're limited to streaming video to your Apple TV-connected HDTV, but there are a number of sources to stream from. Firstly, you can send video from *iTunes* on your Mac straight to your Apple TV without having to search for files via the Apple TV interface. Simply select your Apple TV from the AirPlay menu in *iTunes* and you're good to go. Then there's streaming of videos on your iPhone and iPad via AirPlay, as we've discussed already. You can also stream video and audio from YouTube via an iOS device by tapping on the AirPlay icon that appears on the video window. Certain compatible apps can also stream video to Apple TV, including the new iPad newspaper *The Daily*. Using an app called *AirVideo* from InMethod (£1.79), users can even stream video from their Mac to their iPad or iPhone using AirPlay. An app called *SlideShow Remote* by LogicInMind (£2.99) allows for streaming of *Microsoft PowerPoint* presentations from iPhone and iPad to Apple TV via AirPlay; another app called *Twonky Mobile* by PacketVideo (£1.79) offers AirPlay streaming from iPhone, iPad, Mac and even Android devices.

Basically, wherever you see the AirPlay icon you can select a device to stream media to, and thanks to iOS 4.3 there are more apps with this functionality appearing every day. »

» NO WI-FI? / Wired vs wireless

Wireless is the best way of sending media around your house as it provides complete freedom by comparison to Ethernet connections. The name AirPlay suggests as much. Using Wi-Fi, you not only avoid the limitations of cables but you can connect more devices to your network such as iPads, iPhones and iPods that have no way of connecting with wires. A wired connection has to rely on old fashioned Ethernet cables running to each device, which in most cases will only be your Apple TV (which has an Ethernet port should you not have a Wi-Fi network in your house).

An alternative to an Apple system would be to use a device such as Logitech's Squeezebox Radio (which in addition to a Wi-Fi connection has an Ethernet port) or a Sonos system, although these will likely cost more than simply taking your network wireless using AirPlay for streaming. So you're better off investing in a wireless router for your home. There's little choice at the moment, but as more AirPlay compatible devices appear on the market it will become even more affordable to send music to any room in your home using your Wi-Fi network.

Turn It On
Ladytron

An alternative to using AirPlay would be a wired device such as the Logitech Squeezebox Radio, which has an ethernet port.

Controlling AirPlay

To control your AirPlay experience the best method is to use Apple's free *Remote* app for iPhone, iPad or iPod touch. When connected to the same network as your AirPlay devices, *Remote* can send music from your *iTunes* library to speakers, as well as control playback. You can also choose which speakers and devices to send media to and from your iPad. Once you've selected the *iTunes* library you're playing the media from, you can control the volume of each device. Media stored in *iTunes* can be played from *Remote* and sent to your Apple TV or speakers. This includes movies, TV shows, podcasts and audiobooks that can be streamed across your home and, if you're in front of your Apple TV, you can choose to control it from your iPhone or iPad using *Remote*. The interface makes it easier to browse and search the Apple TV, and you can use touch gestures to move between menus and select media.

O2-UK
16:38
55 %
AirPlay
Done
Computer ✓
Apple TV

Download Apple's free Remote app to control your AirPlay experience from your iOS device.

Zone Menu
Kitchen + Living Room
Music Menu
Kitchen
Living Room
Patio
Now Playing
Queue
Select a Music Source
Music Library
Radio
iheartradio
Pause All
Edit
Clear
Save
SONO

Compatible devices and

Any wireless Apple product will work with AirPlay, but there are some third-party speakers that will also do the job. Because Apple has partnered with a company called BridgeCo, hardware manufacturers are able to license the AirPlay technology from Apple for inclusion in their devices. Companies such as Denon, who already make use of BridgeCo hardware in their speakers, can update firmware in order to make a device AirPlay compatible and has done so with a number of its products. Other big players including iHome, Bowers and Wilkins, Klipsch, Marantz and JBL all have AirPlay-enabled speakers in the pipeline that should be available this year.

If you're waiting for the launch of compatible AirPlay devices or you don't want to shell out for a new set of speakers in every room, there's a more cost-effective option. *Rogue Amoeba* software (www.rogueamoeba.com) makes two apps that can harness the features of AirPlay and turn existing speakers into remote devices. *AirFoil* provides a similar interface to the AirPlay menu in *iTunes* and allows you to select speakers and devices including your Mac, Apple TV, speakers connected to AirPort Express Base Stations as well as laptops and other Macs. To turn another Mac into an available speaker you need to run the *AirFoil Speakers* app so that it can be discovered. Using the line-out socket on this Mac you can then connect to non-AirPlay speakers and stream music to them in the same way you would an AirPlay device. *AirFoil* doesn't just handle *iTunes* music, you can send audio

» MORE CHOICE / Alternative options

Sonos is the original purveyor of multi-room music streaming, with systems that can stream to any connected Sonos player with control coming from unique controllers. These wireless systems are effective and have become even better in the last few years, but will cost a pretty penny to install, especially if you're looking to stream to more than one room.

The Logitech Squeezebox range is far more affordable and accesses your local *iTunes* library as well as web-based content via Ethernet or Wi-Fi. You can also control all available Squeezebox devices using your computer or a range of apps, including Squeemote for iPhone by LJR Software (£4.99) or SqueezePad for iPad by Stefan Hansel (£5.99). Logitech's Squeezebox products offer the benefit of a wireless audio setup that can access your iTunes library, but they and any other audio device with a line-in port can also be used as part of an AirPlay setup when connected to the audio-out port of an AirPort Express Base Station.

Another option is *AirFoil* (for more details, see above). This will allow you to stream any audio to devices on your network and could be the most affordable option open to you.

A Sonos system provides the same streaming of AirPlay but costs more and isn't quite as flexible, nor does it provide Apple TV connectivity.

alternate options

from any app running on your Mac or all system audio to your remote speakers. This is ideal for playing web videos or other streaming content from the web, or using other music apps such as *Spotify* that don't support AirPlay. There's also an app for iPhone and iPad called *Reemote for Airfoil* by Kai Aras (£2.99) that lets you control *AirFoil* and select which speakers to use as well as control volume and playback. The benefit of using *AirFoil* with AirPlay and your existing devices is that, with devices you already own, you can create remote speakers without having to buy anything new. If you're already using wireless speakers that are not AirPlay compatible you can still keep them on your network and use them as normal for streaming web radio and *iTunes* music, but also use the line-in port to send audio from a computer or Airport Express. During the writing of this feature our AirPlay-only setup included an iMac in the study streamed to a speaker in the kitchen connected via AirPort Express. It also streamed to an Apple TV in the living room, connected to an HDTV and surround sound system, with everything controlled via the *Remote* app for both iPhone and iPad. By using *AirFoil* and AirFoil Speakers, however, we added a speaker in the bathroom and bedroom using a MacBook and a Mac mini. While this isn't an ideal solution, it's possible to connect speakers across your home without having to use AirPlay-enabled devices. Ideally, a wireless AirPlay speaker in every room should be your first choice as the ease of setup and control is second to none.

Next steps

There's no doubt that AirPlay will continue to develop as Apple adds new software, hardware and features, so now is certainly the time to invest in the technology around your home. Even if you start with a two-room setup, you can add more speakers later. As we mentioned before, an Apple TV or AirPort Express in each room could be a simple way to use existing non-AirPlay speakers in your setup and the dream setup would be an HDTV and Apple TV in each location. With HD displays offered at an affordable price these days, you could kit out a room for less than £200.

The beauty of AirPlay is its flexibility, as you upgrade your iOS devices, television and speakers it will continue to work, even if your home or technology collection grows. The technology is, to quote an Apple term, almost 'magical' in the way it works and, if you hadn't considered it before, take a look at the kit you already own and have a crack at your own multi-room streaming solution.

» TOP 3 AIRPLAY SPEAKERS

iHome iW1

£299 www.ihomeaudio.com

The iW1 wireless speaker is ideal for any room. Not only can it dock with your iPod, iPhone or iPad but you can send music to it using AirPlay. The speaker is portable and includes a rechargeable battery. Featuring high performance acoustics and a touch-sensitive control panel, the iW1 is an exciting AirPlay speaker… buy the set for a complete wireless experience.

Zeppelin Air

£TBA www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk

The Zeppelin Air is an iPod/iPhone dock and AirPlay speaker in one package that looks the part in any room. Featuring digital signal processing and a USB port so you can sync your iPod or iPhone while it's docked, the Zeppelin Air is the ultimate speaker for style and quality with the flexibility of wireless streaming.

Denon N7WTE2GB

£600 (£39 AirPlay upgrade)
www.denon.eu

Some devices in Denon's range of wireless music systems will work with AirPlay with a simple upgrade costing £39. If you already own a product from the AVR, CEOL or N7 ranges you might be able to introduce your device to your AirPlay setup, Check out **www.denon.co.uk** for more info.

»

Words by Laurence Cable

Live TV on your Mac

With the right kit, you'll be watching and recording TV in no time

We all like to sit back and relax with a good TV show. And thanks to your Mac and some special kit, you can take the experience to another level. If watching, pausing and rewinding live TV on your Mac sounds good, you ain't heard nothing yet. You can get an electronic programme guide (EPG), record programmes, export them to *iTunes* to play on an iPhone, iPad or Apple TV, and control the setup from your portable Apple device.

Elgato networked tuners

An alternative to the USB tuners is one of Elgato's networked TV tuners, such as the Netstream DTT (£180). Connect it to your aerial, plug an Ethernet lead between it and your Wi-Fi router, and you've got TV anywhere on your home network. A benefit over USB, is you're not limited to where you watch TV in your house, as your Mac doesn't have to be tied to an aerial all the time. Another great thing about the Netstream DTT is that it's got a twin tuner, meaning two people can watch different channels simultaneously, or you can record one show while you enjoy another.

You need to think about where you're going to put the Netstream DTT, because it needs a direct connection to an aerial and your router. You'll also need an aerial splitter to enable you to leave your existing TV plugged in, since the Netstream DTT doesn't have a coax-out socket.

And with Elgato's £2.99 iOS app, you can connect to and control their TV tuners from anywhere using an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch, provided your Mac's running.

The Netstream enables two different people in two different rooms to watch two different programmes.

CRICKET WORLD CUP 2011
BBC NEWS 15:51
MacBook Pro

Plug an Elgato tuner into your Mac for a huge range of TV content.

Elgato USB tuners

One of the big players in the Mac TV market is Elgato, which makes a range of tuners that plug into a free-to-air TV aerial and connect to one of your Mac's USB ports. There are also products for free-to-air satellite connections, but not for Sky or Virgin Media TV – to watch these services on your Mac, have a look at the Slingbox opposite. Elgato doesn't support UK Freeview HD either.

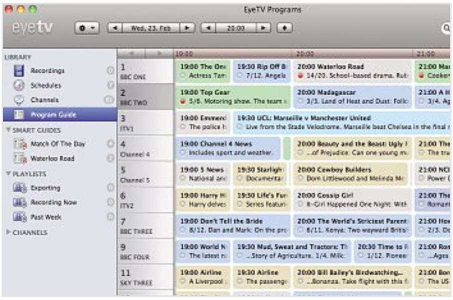
To see a full list of the tuners Elgato offers, have a look at **http://bit.ly/macformatelgato**, but the one we particularly like is the EyeTV DTT Deluxe (£70), because it's so small.

As well as a remote control, it comes with two small aerials, and depending on how strong the signal is in your area, these may be enough. If not, you'll need to connect a larger antenna, such as your rooftop one to it, so bear in mind you'll need to be sitting somewhere near an aerial socket.

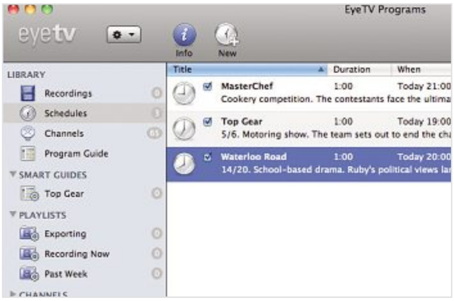
Getting started with the EyeTV DTT Deluxe is straightforward – you install the gorgeous *EyeTV* software that comes with the tuner, update to the latest version if necessary, and then work through a step-by-step setup guide. This will help you install the tuner, search for channels and register for your free one-year subscription to the tvtv EPG service, which will give you full programme listings, provided your Mac's connected to the internet.

With everything installed, *EyeTV* will open automatically when it detects a tuner. You can then watch, pause, rewind and record live TV. Scheduling recordings is a breeze – have a look.

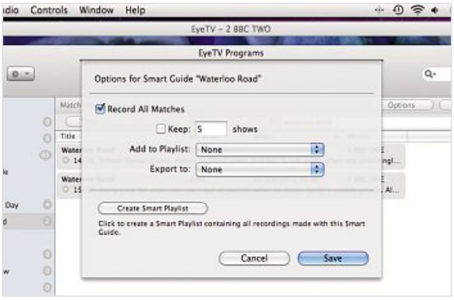
» HOW TO / Record with EyeTV



	19:00		20:00		21:00
1 BBC ONE	19:00 The On Actress Tam	19:30 Rip Off B 7/12. Angela	20:00 Waterloo Road ● 14/20. School-based drama. Rub		21:00 Ma ● Cooke
2 BBC TWO	19:00 Top Gear ● 5/6. Motoring show. The team s		20:00 Madagascar 3/3. Land of Heat and Dust: Folk		21:00 A H 3/4. Ag
3 ITV1	19:00 Emmerd The police h	19:30 UCL: Marseille v Manchester United Live from the Stade Velodrome. Marseille beat Chelsea in the final r			
4 Channel 4	19:00 Channel 4 News Includes sport and weather.		20:00 Beauty and the Beast: Ugly I ...of Prejudice: Can one young m		21:00 The The tra
5 Channel 5	19:00 5 News National and	19:30 Starligh Documentar	20:00 Cowboy Builders Dom Littlewood and Melinda Me		21:00 NCI Power (
6 ITV2	19:00 Harry H Harry delves	19:30 Life's Fun Series featuri	20:00 Gossip Girl It-Girl Happened One Night: With		21:00 The Romant
7 BBC THREE	19:00 Don't Tell the Bride 8/12. Dan and Mark: On the pro		20:00 The World's Strictest Parent 8/11. Kenya: Two wayward Britis		21:00 How 2/3. Do
9 BBC FOUR	19:00 World N The latest n	19:30 Mud, Sweat and Tractors: Th ...Story of Agriculture. 1/4. Milk:		20:30 Time to R 1/12. Pioneer	21:00 Ron ...Ages
11 SKY THREE	19:00 Airline A Liverpool	19:30 Airline The passeng	20:00 Bill Bailey's Birdwatching... ...Bonanza. Take flight with this f		21:00 Bon The US



Title	Duration	When
☑ MasterChef Cookery competition. The contestants face the ultima	1:00	Today 21:00
☑ Top Gear 5/6. Motoring show. The team sets out to end the cha	1:00	Today 19:00
☑ Waterloo Road 14/20. School-based drama. Ruby's political views la	1:00	Today 20:00



Options for Smart Guide "Waterloo Road"

☑ Record All Matches

☐ Keep: 5 shows

Add to Playlist: None

Export to: None

Click to create a Smart Playlist containing all recordings made with this Smart Guide.

01 Find your show

Click the red button to record instantly; it can even go back to the start of the current show. To schedule a recording, press ctrl + P and select **Program Guide**. Browse to your show and click the little dot. If you try to record two shows at once, *EyeTV* will warn you.

02 Schedule it

Click **Schedules** in the left column to see what shows you've set up to record. To the right of each programme, you can set to export the video for iPod or iPad, or add it to an *EyeTV* playlist, which work just like your music lists in *iTunes*, appearing in the left-hand column.

03 Record entire series

So that you never miss an episode, you can schedule a whole series to record. In the Programs window, click the + and create a new Smart Guide. Set the search options to find your series and click **Options**. Tick the **Record All Matches** box. ●

equinux

A cheaper alternative to the Elgato USB tuners is the Equinux TubeStick (£40). This plugs into your Mac and aerial to provide live TV on your computer. Once its software – *The Tube* – is installed, it detects the USB tuner and searches for channels. It requires activation, and to use it on a different Mac, you need to deactivate the first before it'll work on the second. Unlike Elgato's EyeTV, it uses the Freeview EPG, so you'll see the same details as on your television. We're less keen on the EPG interface though, where you're initially shown a list of all the shows on now. To browse an individual station, you find one of its programmes in the list and click the channel name.

The Tube adds a social element to TV viewing, too, by incorporating a chat window, where you can message other equinux users who are watching the same programme.

Again, you can pause and rewind live TV, while recording is as simple as clicking the dot next to a programme name. You can search for upcoming shows and select which you'd like to record, or schedule a timed recording.

equinux
TubeStick

Plug in and go with the equinux TubeStick

Yoursaved programmes appear in a simple Library view, from where you can view them or export for iPod, iPhone, AppleTV or *iMovie*.

The *LiveTV* iOS app (£2.99) enables you to watch TV on your iPhone, provided The Tube is running on your Mac and both devices are on the same Wi-Fi network – though we found it slightly temperamental when it came to connecting the two. There's also *TubeToGo* (59p), which enables you to schedule recordings on your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch. The programmes are saved online, but you'll need to set up some kind of storage first – either FTP, MobileMe or local web sharing. Again, your Mac needs to be on and *The Tube* must be running.

Slingbox

The Slingbox is a versatile bit of kit that harnesses your existing TV setup and makes it available over the internet, so you can connect to it from just about anywhere you can get online. Rather than offering the recording and EPG services you get with Elgato, it harnesses what you've got and enables you to control it remotely. So if there's a PVR under your TV, set it from your Mac. Similarly, if you link a Freeview box to it, you'll be able to use its EPG. It'll even mean you can access your Sky or Virgin Media box from your Mac.

The top-end Slingboxes have built-in Freeview tuners, so when you watch TV remotely, you won't affect what someone in the living room is watching. However, if you watch something from your Sky or Virgin box on your Mac, anyone in the living room will see the same channel as you.

The whole thing works in a web browser and there are three Slingboxes to choose from – the SOLO (£120), PRO (£160) and PRO HD (£240), and only the top two have the built-in tuner. For more about the differences, see **http://bit.ly/macformatslingbox**. Sling also sells the SlingLink TURBO (£60), which enables you to locate your Slingbox away from your router.

sling
sling

The Slingbox makes your TV setup availble online.

»

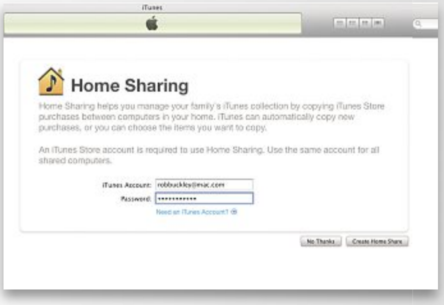
Words by Rob Buckley

10 Top Apple TV tips

Play more and do more with the help of Apple's set-top media player

1 Set up Home Sharing

Although the Apple TV is mainly aimed at letting you rent and play movies that you've bought from the iTunes Store, you can also play any *iTunes* content that is stored on computers on your home network. This includes TV programmes and movies you've bought. All you have to do is go to the Advanced menu in *iTunes* and enter your iTunes account details to set up Home Sharing on that computer. Then you can go to your Apple TV and select Settings > Computers and enter the same details.



Home Sharing

Home Sharing helps you manage your family's iTunes collection by copying iTunes Store purchases between computers in your home. iTunes can automatically copy new purchases, or you can choose the items you want to copy.

An iTunes Store account is required to use Home Sharing. Use the same account for all shared computers.

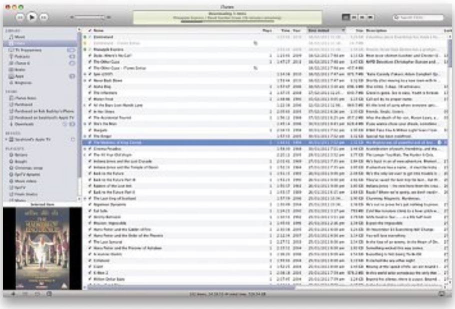
iTunes Account: robbuckley@mac.com
Password: ••••••••••••

Setting up Home Sharing is an absolute cinch.

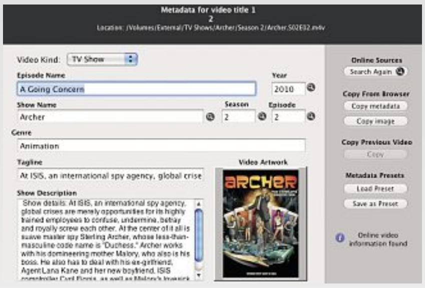
Apple TV: it's tiny but mighty, and it looks good too.

2 Watch non-iTunes movies and videos

You might have videos in formats other than the ones the Apple TV can play. If you have them stored in *iTunes*, you can select them then choose Advanced > Create iPad or Apple TV version to convert them to a playable format. Alternatively, you can use a program such as *Handbrake* (**www.handbrake.fr**) to convert more or less any video format to Apple TV format much more quickly than you can using *iTunes*.



You can watch what you want on Apple TV, but you must convert it first to a compatible format.



Metadata for video title 1
2
Location: /Volumes/External/TV Shows/Archer/Season 2/Archer.S02E02.m4v

Video Kind: TV Show
Episode Name: A Going Concern
Year: 2010
Show Name: Archer
Season: 2
Episode: 2
Genre: Animation
Tagline: At ISIS, an international spy agency, global crise
Show Description: Show details: At ISIS, an international spy agency, global crises are merely opportunities for its highly trained employees to confuse, undermine, betray and royally screw each other. At the center of it all is suave master spy Sterling Archer, whose less-than-masculine code name is "Duchess." Archer works with his domineering mother Malory, who also is his boss. He also has to deal with his ex-girlfriend, Agent Lana Kane and her new boyfriend, ISIS

Online video information found

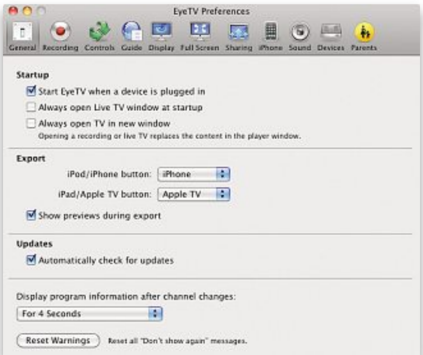
Get extra info about your favourite programmes.

3 Add metadata quickly and easily

Your Apple TV will display information about your video content, such as cast and synopsis. You can enter this manually in *iTunes*, but it's easier to use a program such as *MetaX* (**www.kerstetter.net/index.php/projects/software/metax**) or *VideoDrive* (**www.aroona.net/VideoDrive/Home.html**), which will look up details and enter them into *iTunes*. Select batches of videos stored in *iTunes* and it'll add the info for the files.

4 Watch TV programmes on your Apple TV

The Apple TV doesn't record or receive television signals or catch-up services such as the iPlayer. However, you can buy episodes of TV shows from the iTunes Store on your Mac, as well as buy one of the many TV tuners from Elgato (**www.elgato.com**) and Miglia (**www.miglia.com**) that let you record TV on your Mac, even in HD where available. You can then export your recordings into *iTunes* in an Apple TV-friendly format.



Startup
☑ Start EyeTV when a device is plugged in
☐ Always open Live TV window at startup
☐ Always open TV in new window
Opening a recording or live TV replaces the content in the player window.

Export
iPod/iPhone button: iPhone
iPad/Apple TV button: Apple TV
☑ Show previews during export

Updates
☑ Automatically check for updates

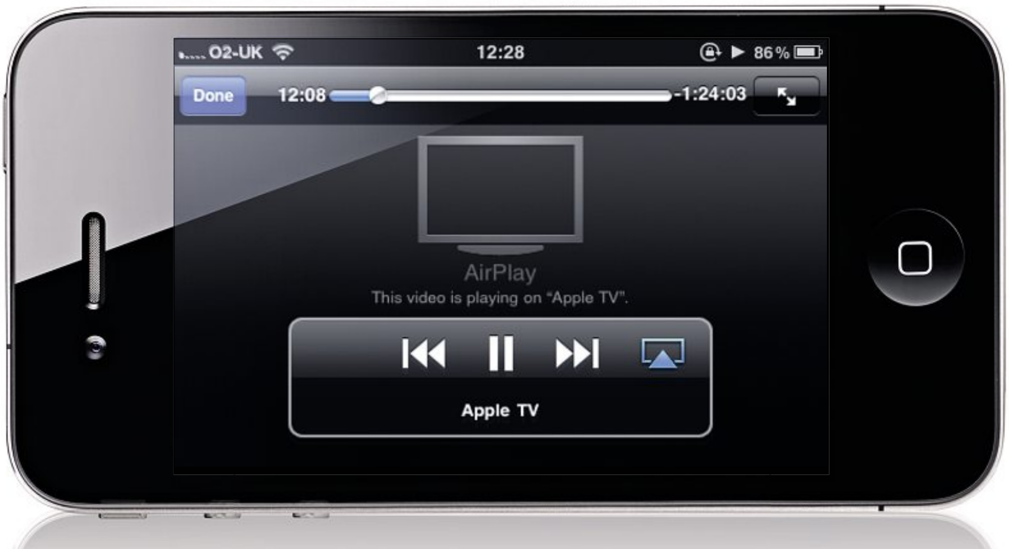
Display program information after channel changes: For 4 Seconds

Reset all "Don't show again" messages.

5 Stream content from your iOS device to an Apple TV using AirPlay

When you're on the same wireless network as an Apple TV, in any AirPlay-compatible app on your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch such as the *iPod* or *YouTube* apps, a new icon will appear right next to the fast-forward button. It looks like a square with a triangle at the bottom. Press this and it will enable you to play your music or videos on the Apple TV.

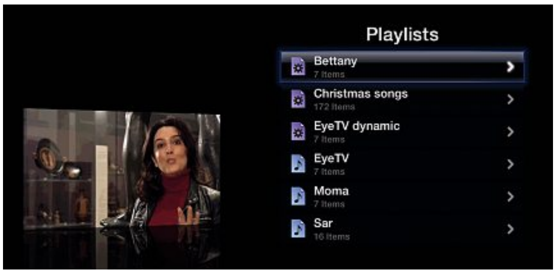
You can also use AirPlay from within *iTunes* on any Mac.


O2-UK
12:28
86%
Done
12:08
-1:24:03
AirPlay
This video is playing on "Apple TV".
Apple TV

Is there anything the iPhone can't do? Probably not. Use it to control your TV from another room.

6 Display video playlists

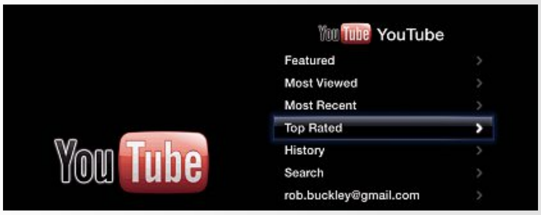
By default, the Apple TV won't display your computers' playlists anywhere except in Music. However, if you go into Settings > Audio and Video, selecting All in Show Playlists will let you change this so that your movie and TV show playlists – both regular and smart – will show up as well. You won't be able to change them on the Apple TV, but any changes in *iTunes* will be reflected on the Apple TV.


Playlists
Bettany
7 Items
Christmas songs
172 Items
EyeTV dynamic
7 Items
EyeTV
7 Items
Moma
7 Items
Sar
16 Items

Set up an at-a-glance playlist for all your favourite videos.

9 Easier searching with your YouTube account

Accessing YouTube from the Apple TV is easy. However, the Apple TV remote and onscreen keyboard isn't the best way of searching for videos. You can save yourself a lot of time by using your Mac to find videos then saving them as favourites in your Google or YouTube account. You'll then be able to access them immediately by logging in using the same account on your Apple TV. You'll also have access to your YouTube subscriptions as well.


YouTube
Featured
Most Viewed
Most Recent
Top Rated
History
Search
rob.buckley@gmail.com
You Tube

Browse YouTube via your Mac and then save them as favourites.

7 Display your photos on the Apple TV

Once you've enabled Home Sharing, you can also display all your photos on the Apple TV. Go into iTunes and choose Choose Photos to Share… from the Advanced menu. You'll then be able to choose whether you want to share your *iPhoto* photos or photos stored in a folder on your hard drive. It's worth creating albums specifically for the Apple TV to use, so that only the best (or least embarrassing) show up.

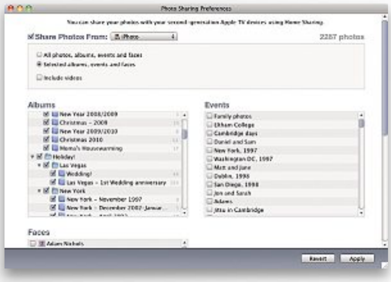
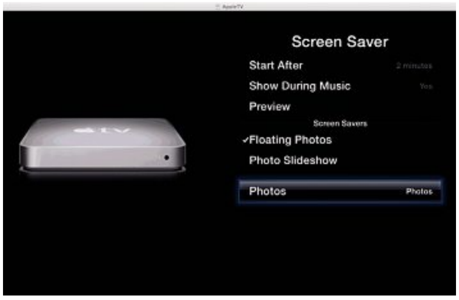


Photo Sharing Preferences
Share Photos From: iPhoto
2287 photos
All photos, albums, events and faces
Selected albums, events and faces
Include videos
Albums
Events
Faces
Revert
Apply

It's not just for moving media – you can also share your best photos using Apple TV.


Screen Saver
Start After
2 minutes
Show During Music
Yes
Preview
Screen Savers
✓Floating Photos
Photo Slideshow
Photos
Photos

Create your own slideshow of Screen Savers – for amusement, inspiration or just for the hell of it…

8 Use your photos as a screensaver

Once you've chosen which photos you want to share, you can replace the built-in screensaver with one made from your photos. Go to Settings > Screen Saver then click Photos. As well as Flickr and MobileMe galleries, you'll be able to select a computer and pick which photos you want to use for the screensaver. There are also different styles of screensaver to pick from.

10 Fixing problems

Although the Apple TV is very reliable, sometimes problems can occur. Running *Software Update* from the Settings menu may reveal a fix if the software is out of date and even give you new features. However, if something more serious is happening, you can bring up a menu that will let you run diagnostics and restore it to its factory settings – hold down the Menu and down buttons on your remote control for a few seconds until it restarts.

Troubleshoot frustrating glitches via Software Update or by running diagnostics, if it comes to it.

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freeway
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You design, Freeway codes - beautifully.

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YOU SUPPLY THE CREATIVITY, WE HANDLE THE CODE
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"Make Numbers and Excel play nice together once and for all"

USEFUL EXPORT OPTIONS FOR APPLE'S NUMBERS APP P52

HOME INSURANCE INVENTORY
PHOTOS DOCUMENTING HOUSE AND EACH ROOM
Home Insurance.xls

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How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

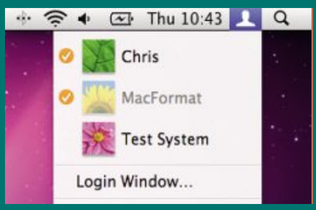
Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

We've all been there – the sickening feeling that comes a fraction of a second after wiping an important file from your Mac's hard disk. Of course, if you're being a good computer user, you'll at least have *Time Machine* or similar running away in the background so it won't be a true disaster, but, alas, we know that not everyone does. So this issue we show you how to recover lost and deleted files; we can't guarantee success every time, but follow the advice on page 56 and we might just save your bacon!

Mind you, sometimes the problem is not accidentally trashed files, but files that refuse to delete even if you want them to. Happily, The Other Chris, as Mr Brennan is still officially known, has you covered on page 65, where he takes you through the process of force-emptying your Trash.

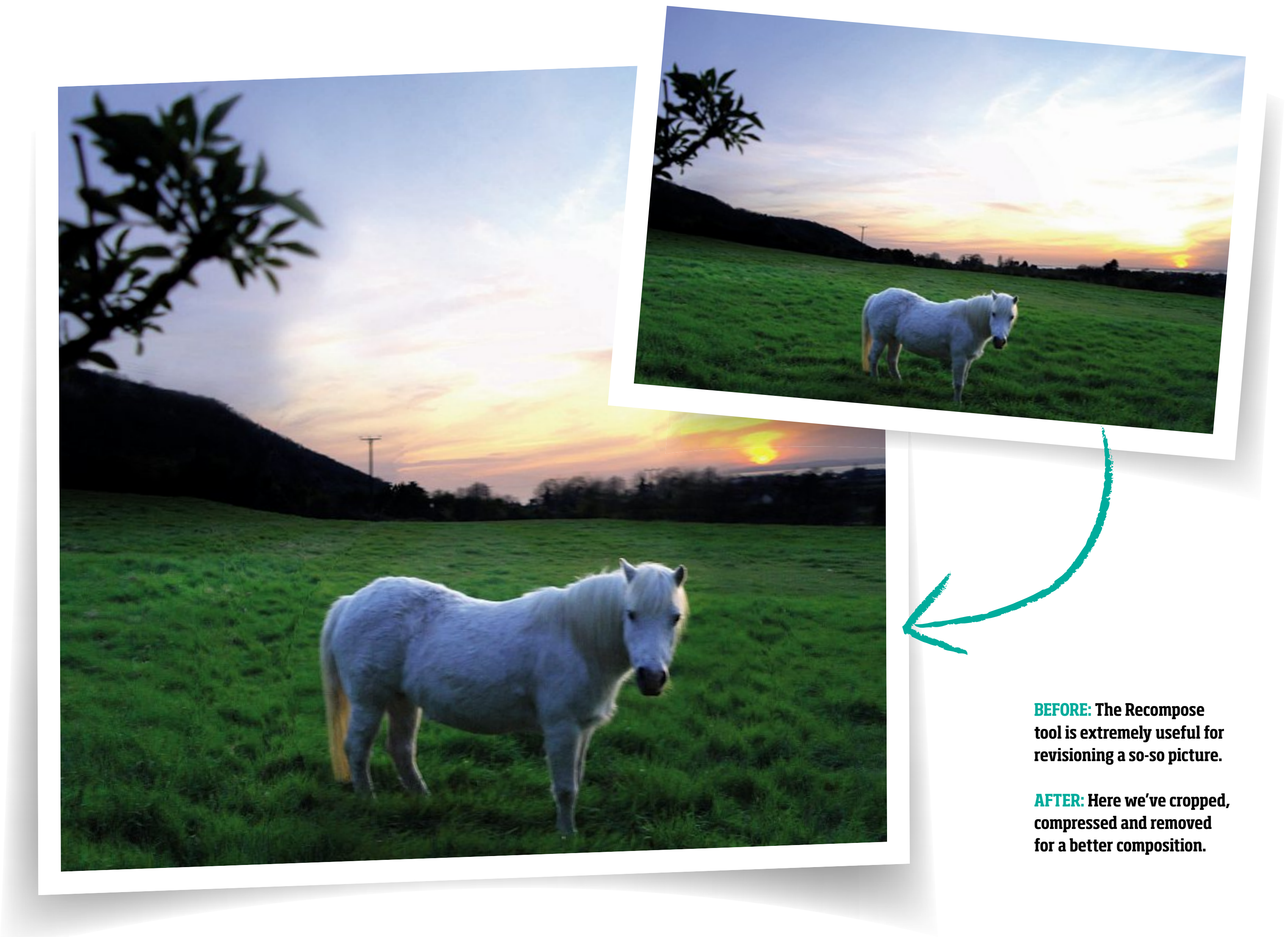
And there's much more. If you're a keen photographer who uses *Aperture*, check out our guide to its brushes on page 48, and if you want to give photos a bit of extra punch, you'll want to turn to page 46.

Be sure to let us know what else you would like us to cover here too!



>> DID YOU KNOW?

If you have more than one user logged in on your Mac, the apps and processes running in each don't quit when you 'fast user switch' between them.



BEFORE: The Recompose tool is extremely useful for revisioning a so-so picture.

AFTER: Here we've cropped, compressed and removed for a better composition.

Recompose in Elements

Bring objects closer and change picture proportions without distortion

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Adobe Elements 8 or 9,
Photoshop CS4 or CS5

The **Recompose** tool was introduced with *Photoshop Elements 8*, and it's designed to help you fix up photos where the composition isn't working. You can use it to bring people or objects closer, or change the shape of the picture without losing any of the objects within it or distorting them.

That's just what's needed in our sample photo. The subject, lighting and colours are great, but there's too much empty space. It would work better in a square rather than a rectangle, and it would be great to move both the tree on the left (which acts as a nice framing device for the picture) and the setting sun on the right, so that they're both closer to the centre of the picture.

The **Crop** tool is no good because we'd lose both the tree and the sun, and the **Transform** tool is no good because it would simply squash the picture horizontally.

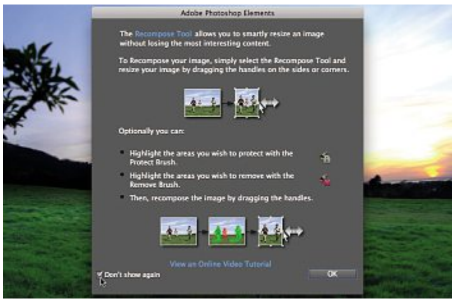
The **Recompose** tool attempts to distinguish between important and unimportant picture content, then compress the unimportant stuff to bring the rest closer together. You can use it as-is to see if it does a decent job on its own, or you can manually highlight the objects you want to protect and the areas which can safely be removed.

> *"The Recompose tool is designed to help you fix up photos where composition isn't working"*

This tutorial is based on *Elements*, but *Photoshop* offers the same tools under another name. In *Photoshop*, promote the picture to a full layer, then use the Edit > Content-Aware Scale command. *Photoshop* doesn't offer 'protection' and 'removal' highlighters. Instead, it lets you use any pre-saved alpha channel to define areas you want to protect. Create the selection using whatever tools are suitable, then use Select > Save Selection. With the **Content-Aware Scale** tool active, look for the **Protect** menu on the options bar, and choose your saved selection.

Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Change image composition for the better



Adobe Photoshop Elements

The Recompose Tool allows you to smartly resize an image without losing the most interesting content.

To Recompose your image, simply select the Recompose Tool and resize your image by dragging the handles on the sides or corners.

Optionally you can:

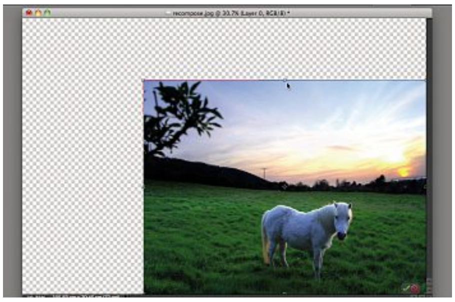
- Highlight the areas you wish to protect with the Protect Brush.
- Highlight the areas you wish to remove with the Remove Brush.
- Then, recompose the image by dragging the handles.

View an Online Video Tutorial

☑ Don't show again

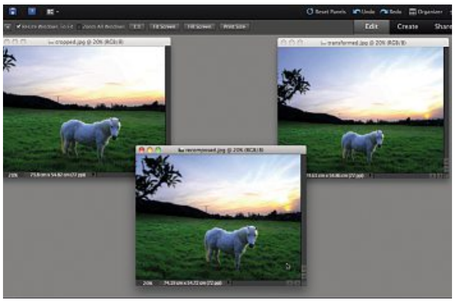
01 The Recompose tool

The **Recompose** tool shares the same flyout as the **Crop** tool on the **Elements Tools** panel. If you haven't used it before, a window pops up with instructions on what to do. You can click the **Don't show again** checkbox at the bottom left if you don't want to see it any more.



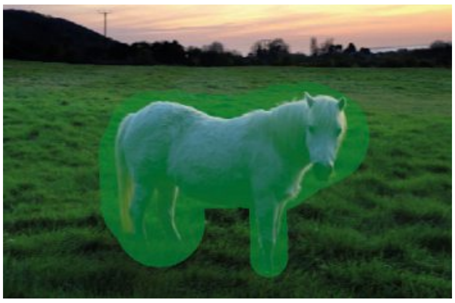
02 Using the tool

Using the **Recompose** tool is more like using the **Transform** tool than the **Crop** tool. You can drag a top, bottom or side handle to recompose along one axis only, or drag on a corner handle to adjust both. *Elements* will try to identify and preserve important content.



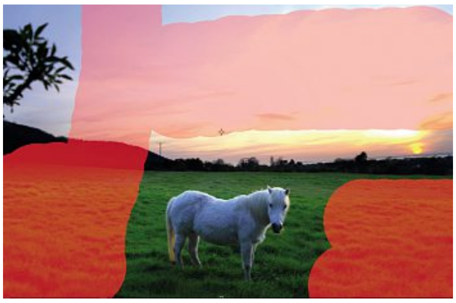
03 Methods compared

Here's a quick comparison. If you **Crop** the image (top left), you lose the edges. If you **Transform** it (top right), you'll keep all the picture but it will be distorted if the aspect ratio changes. But the **Recompose** tool (bottom) has kept all the key details with minimal distortion.



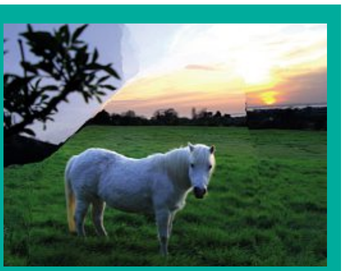
04 Protecting objects

The **Recompose** tool can do a pretty good job automatically if your main subject is well-defined against a uniform background, but sometimes it needs a little help. The options bar has two highlighter tools, including a green one for highlighting areas to protect, as shown.



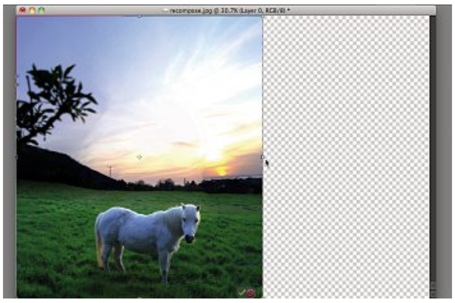
05 Removal highlighter

You can highlight areas you don't need with the red **Removal** highlighter. This includes the areas of blank sky and the grass around the horse. There is a bit of an issue with the **Removal** tool, (see our Quick Tip), so you might want to stick with the green highlighter.



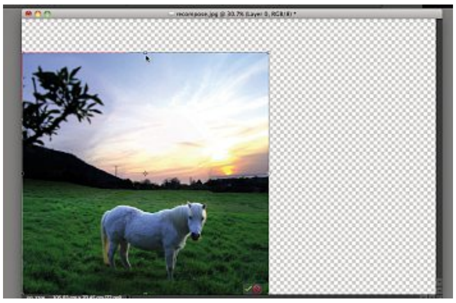
QUICK TIP

What's wrong with the **Removal** highlighter? This is the result we got. The boundaries between the 'removed' areas are crude and obvious, it just looks like a bad cut-and-paste job. Something for Adobe to work on, perhaps?



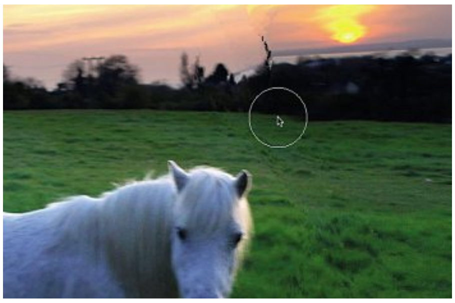
06 Horizontal compression

After you've protected key areas of the photo, you can see what the **Recompose** tool is doing. We've dragged the right edge inwards, and the tool has maintained the shapes of the silhouetted tree, the horse, and the sunset. The regions in between have been compressed.



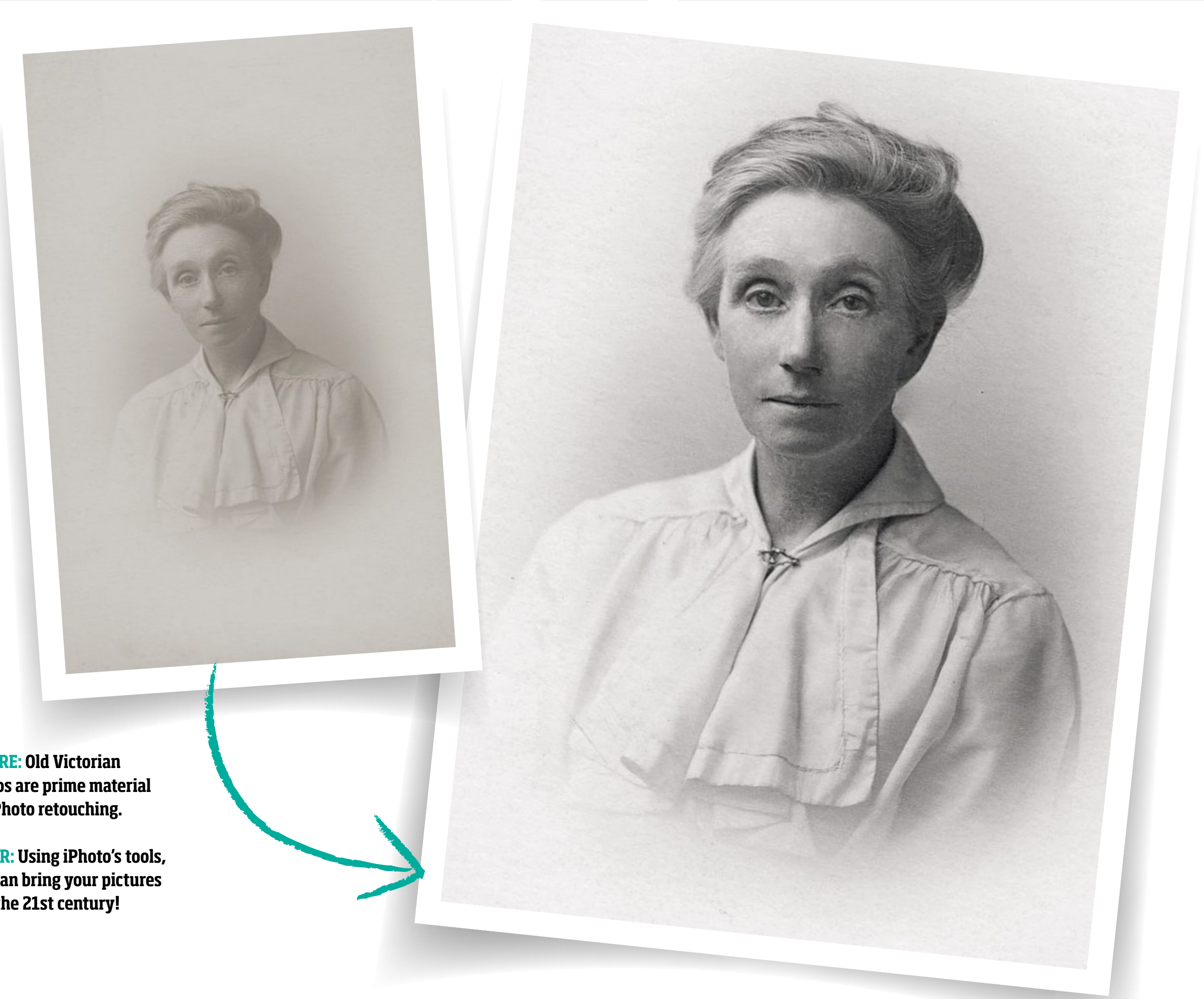
07 Vertical compression

If we drag down the top edge, the sky is compressed vertically, but the foreground and the silhouetted tree on the left aren't affected. The **Recompose** tool combined its own automatic content selection with the areas we've manually marked out for protection.



08 Cleaning up

There are some rough edges, though. There are heavily compressed zones where details don't line up or the boundaries are obvious. The **Recompose** tool doesn't have any advanced options for fine-tuning, so the best approach is to use the **Clone Stamp** tool. ●



BEFORE: Old Victorian photos are prime material for iPhoto retouching.

AFTER: Using iPhoto's tools, you can bring your pictures into the 21st century!

Enhance old pictures

Restoring old family photos is easier than you might think in iPhoto

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
iPhoto, an old photo, or a few

Victorian era photos keep surprisingly well compared to more modern dye-based prints from the 70s and 80s. But they do eventually deteriorate – the paper gets creased and mottled by mould, which thrives in the damp garages and lofts where most of us keep our old family photos.

So it's a good idea to scan them in as digital images before they get past the point of no return, especially given the upsurge in interest in family history. This doesn't have to take forever, and you don't need a fancy scanner. Any desktop multi-function device is adequate, and many can scan several smaller pictures at once and save them as separate images, saving you time.

You don't need fancy software, either. If you were attempting a top-quality restoration of a badly degraded image, you'd be better off in *Photoshop*, but usually you can get by with a handful of adjustments and *iPhoto*'s **Retouch** tool.

Old photos usually have the same problems: fading, colour shifts, skew, creases and scratches, and marks and stains on the paper base. The picture in our walkthrough has most of these, and presents an especially challenging retouching job.

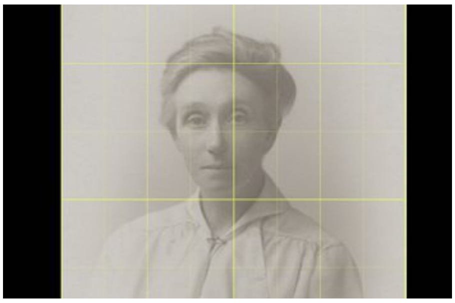
> *"It's a good idea to scan in old photos as digital images before they get past the point of no return"*

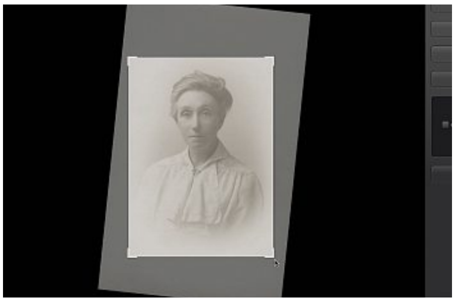
There's a knack to using the **Retouch** tool. Although it appears to fix blemishes by magic, it's actually using the surrounding areas as the source for the repair. This means that if you get the **Retouch** brush too close to an area of different tone some of it can 'bleed' into your repair. You can also 'brush' as well as 'dab', but while 'dabbing' maintains the original texture of the area quite well, 'brushing' tends to smear the pixels and produce an unnaturally smooth-looking repair.

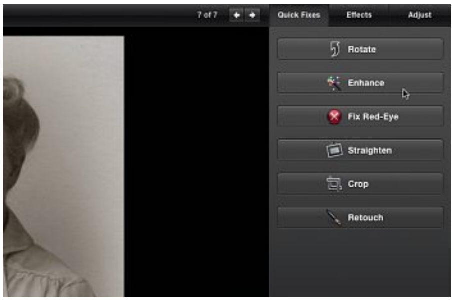
But you can use this to your advantage when enhancing portraits like this one. Let's have a look.

Rod Lawton

HOW TO / How to repair fading and damage






7 of 7
Quick Fixes
Effects
Adjust
Rotate
Enhance
Fix Red-Eye
Straighten
Crop
Retouch

01 Correct any skew

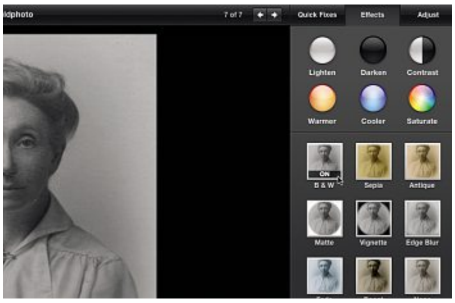
If you have a lot of old photos to scan, you won't have wasted time getting them straight in the scanner, so you can expect a few to come out skewed. Many will have been taken by amateurs with old cameras and inaccurate viewfinders – these will need straightening too.

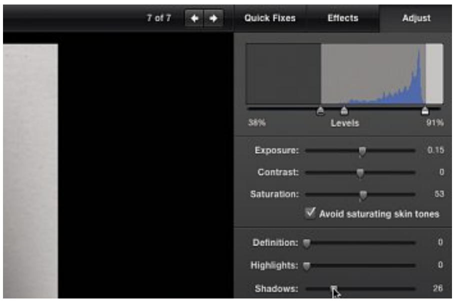
02 Crop the photo

Now crop the photo as necessary. Many, like this Victorian studio portrait, will have been shot as vignettes against larger backgrounds that you don't really need. Crop after you rotate and not before, since rotating the image later will crop off even more at the edges.

03 Automatic enhancement

Some scanners will automatically 'enhance' photos, but they can be aggressive, chopping off shadow and highlight detail, and producing coarse-looking results. Leave any such enhancement switched off and use the **Enhance** tool in *iPhoto* instead.


idphoto
7 of 7
Quick Fixes
Effects
Adjust
Lighten
Darken
Contrast
Warmer
Cooler
Saturate
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur


7 of 7
Quick Fixes
Effects
Adjust
Levels

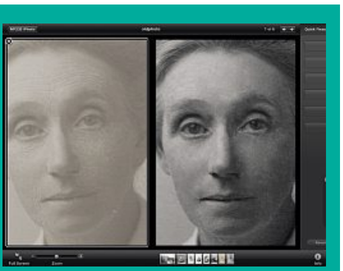
38%
91%
Exposure: 0.15
Contrast: 0
Saturation: 53
☑ Avoid saturating skin tones
Definition: 0
Highlights: 0
Shadows: 26

04 B&W effect

If the original scan has an unwanted colour cast and you want to produce a true black and white image, use the **B&W** effect (or use **Boost** or **Antique** for a 'toned' look – **Sepia** is a little strong). The other alternative is to reduce **Saturation** to zero in the **Adjust** panel.

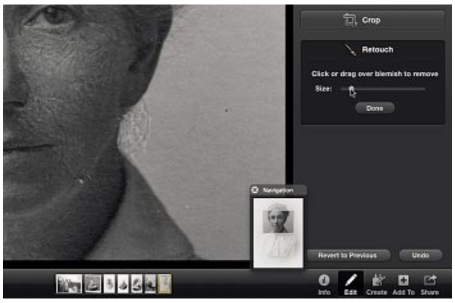
05 Tonal adjustments

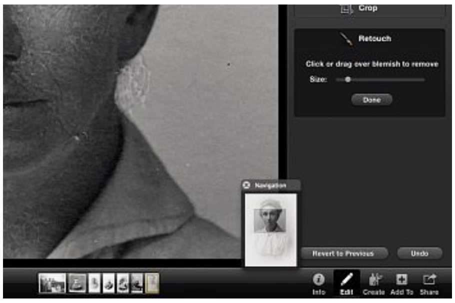
The **Adjust** panel is worth a look at this point to see if the image can be enhanced any further. This one's been improved by dragging the highlight slider to meet the end of the histogram, by dragging the midtone slider to the left and by brightening the **Shadows**.

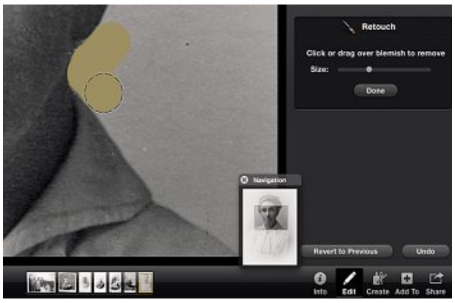


QUICK TIP

When doing a lot of retouching, it's useful to compare the current state of your image with the original to make sure you're on the right track. Do this in *iPhoto's* full-screen edit mode by opening the filmstrip and ⌘-clicking on the original photo.


Crop
Retouch
Click or drag over blemish to remove
Size:
Done
Navigation
Revert to Previous
Undo
Info
Edit
Create
Add To
Share


Crop
Retouch
Click or drag over blemish to remove
Size:
Done
Navigation
Revert to Previous
Undo
Info
Edit
Create
Add To
Share


Retouch
Click or drag over blemish to remove
Size:
Done
Navigation
Revert to Previous
Undo
Info
Edit
Create
Add To
Share

06 Retouch tool

Up close, it's clear there are more issues. Victorian studio photographers often used coarse touching-up on prints to hide wrinkles, but the sharpening applied by the scanner has made them stand out. On the **Retouch** tool, drag the slider to change the size of the brush.

07 Dab small repairs

To hide a blemish, pick a larger brush size and 'dab' it out. You may have to do this a few times, but it doesn't take long and you can hit ⌘-Z to undo anything that goes wrong. You can use a brushing action to repair scratches and wrinkles, but this does smear the pixels.

08 Brush larger blemishes

Retouching can sometimes drag in nearby pixels of a darker colour, but if you drag the brush and keep the edge a few pixels away from the object, you can create a very clean repair. Here, it's effectively removed the odd 'scribbling' effect just below our subject's ear. ●

Work with Aperture's brushes

How to apply adjustments to images with better precision in Aperture

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Aperture version 3.1.1, photos stored in projects, a basic understanding of the interface

Perhaps you're migrating from *iPhoto* or an earlier version of *Aperture*; if so, you'll be used to the various adjustments you can apply to your images. You can alter the white balance, apply effects and transform what could have been a rather dull shot into something a lot more vibrant. But there's a drawback to all these tools: they work on your entire image. Increase saturation and every pixel is changed; apply a sepia effect and your photo is transformed.

But wouldn't it be great if you could specify which part of the photo gets modified? You can achieve this with an advanced image compositing program like *Photoshop* or *Pixelmator* (the latter being available via the Mac App Store, just like *Aperture*, at a substantial discount over the traditional boxed version).

With the advent of *Aperture 3*, this capability is now available to you without ever having to go to another program. There is one huge advantage to performing these changes directly from within *Aperture*. In *Photoshop*, once you've applied your effect, saved and closed the file, those changes will have been set. Unless you saved a copy of the image instead of overwriting it, you wouldn't be able to go back and tweak the alterations at a later date. However, this is precisely what you can do in *Aperture*. All the changes you're making in *Aperture* are saved as preferences inside the library. The original image is never tampered with and you can change, add or remove your effects at any time.

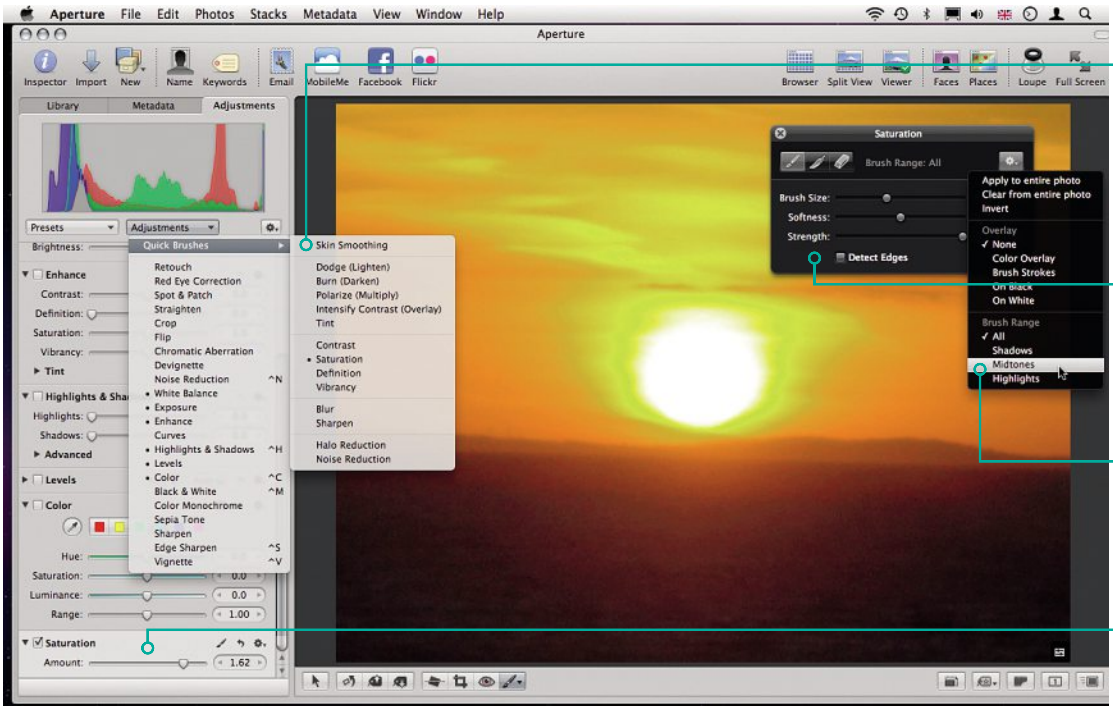
> *"You can apply various brushes onto a single image and undo changes at any time for greater freedom"*

This of course applies whether you're working on the entire picture or just a section of it. Using an adjustment for only part of the image is done by activating the adjustment's brushes. With them, you can choose where to apply your effect, leaving the rest untouched. You can also apply different brushes onto a single image, even coming out of the same adjustment, giving you incredible flexibility. And since you can undo changes at any time, it gives you great freedom to experiment without fear of losing your original photograph.

This tutorial is designed to show you how brushes work, where you find them, and how you can customise, remove or add additional brushes of your own.

Steve Paris

>> HOW TO / Work with pre-configured brushes


Aperture File Edit Photos Stacks Metadata View Window Help
Aperture
Inspector Import New Name Keywords Email MobileMe Facebook Flickr
Browser Split View Viewer Faces Places Loupe Full Screen
Library Metadata Adjustments
Presets Adjustments
Brightness:
Enhance
Contrast:
Definition:
Saturation:
Vibrancy:
Tint
Highlights & Sha
Highlights:
Shadows:
Advanced
Levels
Color
Hue:
Saturation: 0.0
Luminance: 0.0
Range: 1.00
Saturation
Amount: 1.62
Quick Brushes
Retouch
Red Eye Correction
Spot & Patch
Straighten
Crop
Flip
Chromatic Aberration
Devignette
Noise Reduction ^N
White Balance
Exposure
Enhance
Curves
Highlights & Shadows ^H
Levels
Color ^C
Black & White ^M
Color Monochrome
Sepia Tone
Sharpen
Edge Sharpen ^S
Vignette ^V
Skin Smoothing
Dodge (Lighten)
Burn (Darken)
Polarize (Multiply)
Intensify Contrast (Overlay)
Tint
Contrast
Saturation
Definition
Vibrancy
Blur
Sharpen
Halo Reduction
Noise Reduction
Saturation
Brush Range: All
Brush Size:
Softness:
Strength:
Detect Edges
Apply to entire photo
Clear from entire photo
Invert
Overlay
✓ None
Color Overlay
Brush Strokes
On Black
On White
Brush Range
✓ All
Shadows
Midtones
Highlights

Pre-configured brushes

You can access these through the **Quick Brushes** submenu.

The brush HUD

This lets you fine-tune brush size and effect for all adjustments.

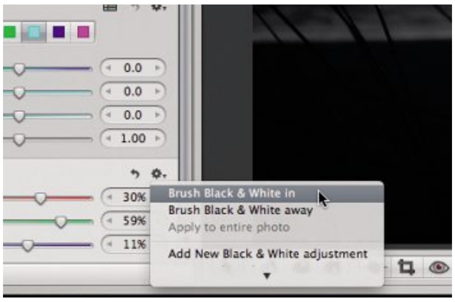
HUD options

More options are on offer when working with your brush.

Adjustment slider

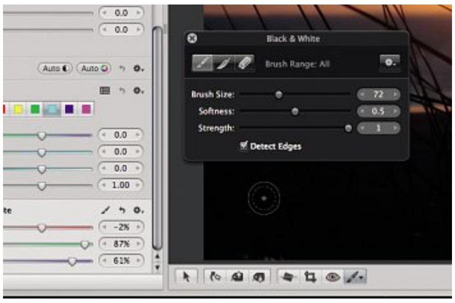
Quick Brushes appear in this sidebar with a handy intensity slider.

HOW TO / Turn an adjustment into a brush


Brush Black & White in
Brush Black & White away
Apply to entire photo
Add New Black & White adjustment

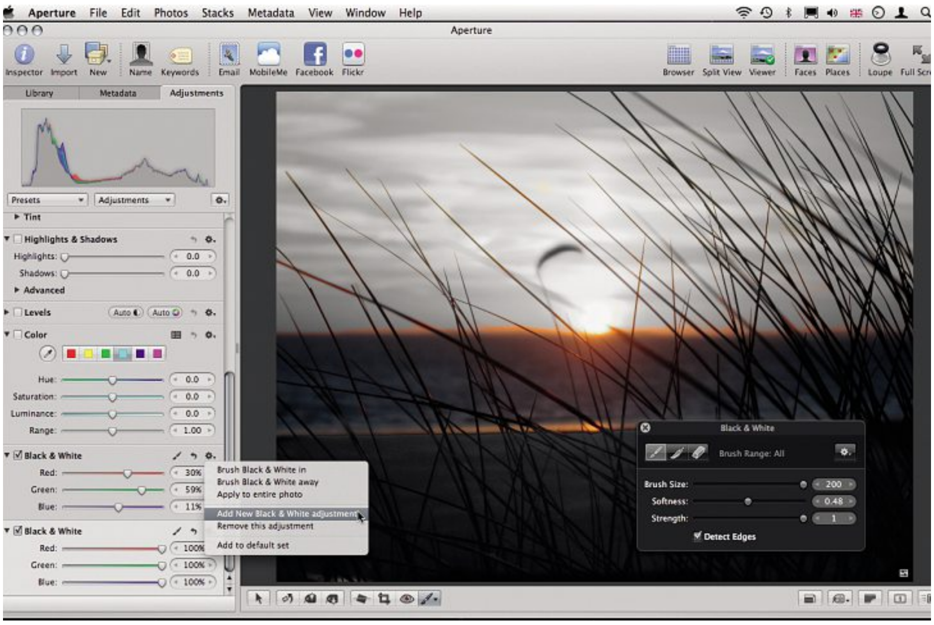
01 Create a brush

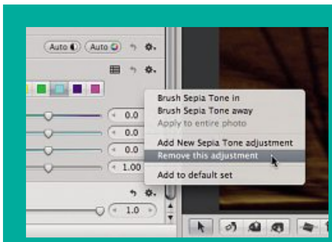
Select a photo from one of your projects (double-click on its thumbnail to focus on that image). Click on the sidebar's **Adjustments** tab. You can create a brush out of most tools: click on an adjustment's cog wheel icon and select **Brush [Adjustment] In**.


Black & White
Brush Range: All
Brush Size:
Softness:
Strength:
Detect Edges

02 Brush settings

A small brush icon appears to the left of the cog wheel, signalling this tool is now a brush. Alter the sliders and notice that nothing happens – yet. The adjustment HUD window should have also appeared; this is used to set the brush's parameters.


Aperture
Inspector
Import
New
Name
Keywords
Email
MobileMe
Facebook
Flickr
Browser
Split View
Viewer
Faces
Places
Loupe
Full Screen
Library
Metadata
Adjustments
Presets
Adjustments
Tint
Highlights & Shadows
Highlights:
Shadows:
Advanced
Levels
Color
Hue:
Saturation:
Luminance:
Range:
Black & White
Red:
Green:
Blue:
Brush Black & White in
Brush Black & White away
Apply to entire photo
Add New Black & White adjustment
Remove this adjustment
Add to default set
Black & White
Brush Range: All
Brush Size:
Softness:
Strength:
Detect Edges

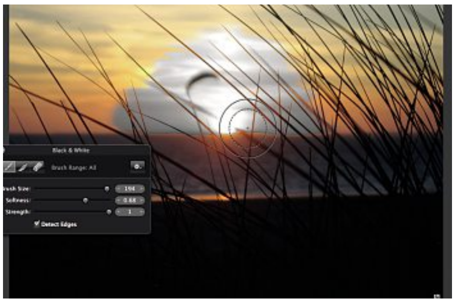

Brush Sepia Tone in
Brush Sepia Tone away
Apply to entire photo
Add New Sepia Tone adjustment
Remove this adjustment
Add to default set

QUICK TIP

To start afresh and reset your brush, click the curved arrow to the left of the tool's cog wheel. To return the tool to its default setting (turning it back into one that affects the whole photo), select the cog wheel and choose **Remove this Adjustment**.

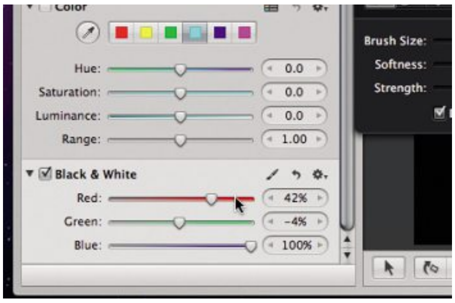
06 More brushes

Once you've transformed a tool to act as a brush, you may think that those particular parameters are locked to those brushes. But you can bring up as many copies of the same tool as you need: click on the currently displayed tool's cog wheel and select **Add New [Name of Tool] Adjustment**. A new copy will appear beneath the existing one, which you can turn into a new brush or use to affect your entire photo. The one downside is that there's no way to rename the tools, so it can be difficult to know which one is affecting which part of your image. Click on the tool's tick box (to the left of its name) to hide the effect. The **Overlay** option can also help you find brushes.


Black & White
Brush Range: All
Detect Edges

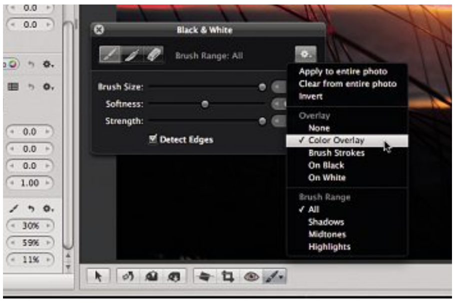
03 Paint on your photo

The **Detect Edges** option is used to limit your effect to a part of your image. Once your brush is set, click and drag your photo to see what happens. Increase the brush size with your mouse's scroll bar or by moving two fingers up or down on your trackpad.


Color
Hue:
Saturation:
Luminance:
Range:
Black & White
Red:
Green:
Blue:
Brush Size:
Softness:
Strength:

04 Alter the settings

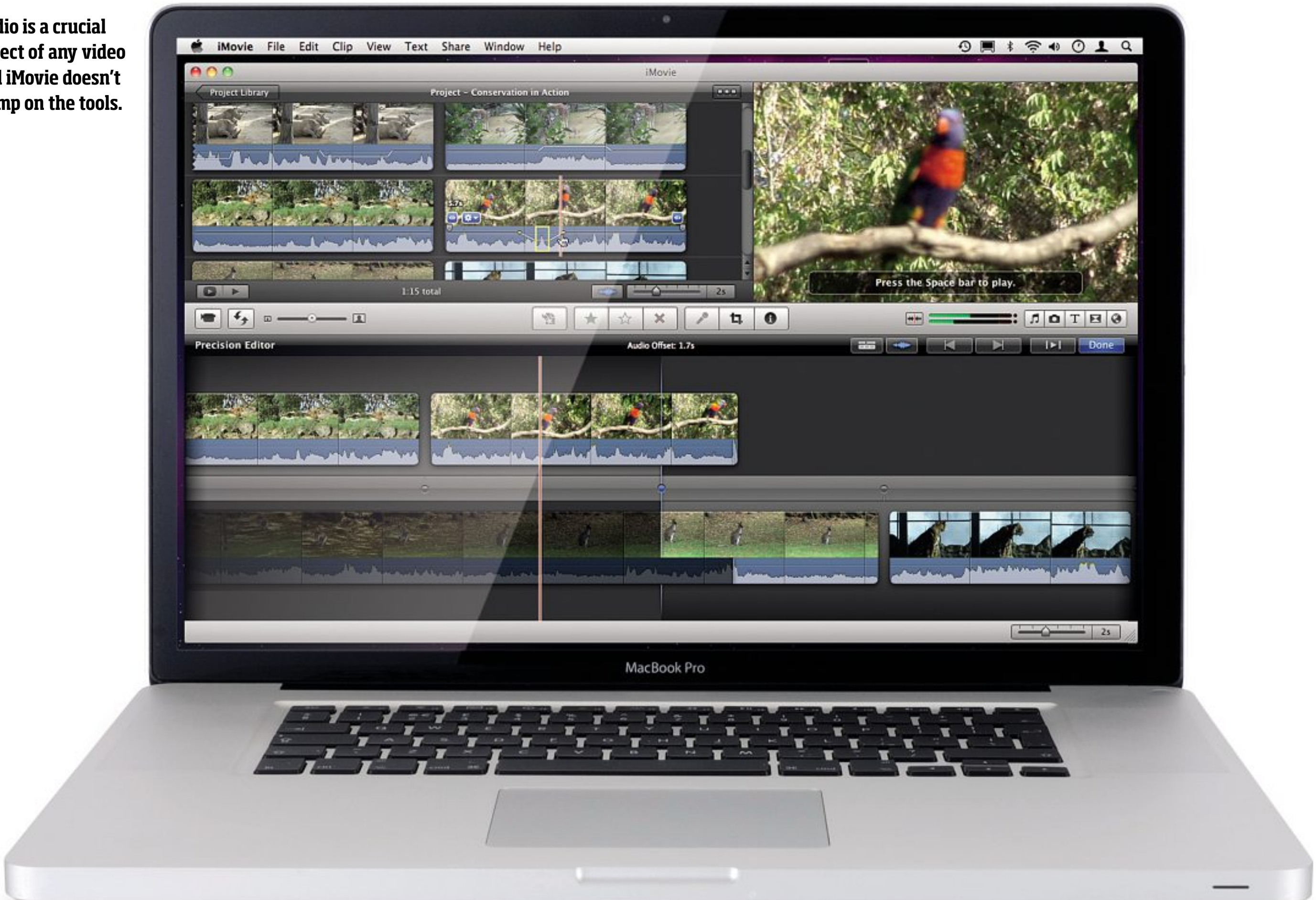
You can change the brush setting for each stroke if you like. Altering the sliders in the **Adjustments** tab will change the parts of the image that you've applied the brushes to. 'Paint' as many parts of your photo as you want and they'll be linked to the same parameters.


Black & White
Brush Range: All
Brush Size:
Softness:
Strength:
Detect Edges
Apply to entire photo
Clear from entire photo
Invert
Overlay
None
✓ Color Overlay
Brush Strokes
On Black
On White
Brush Range
✓ All
Shadows
Midtones
Highlights

05 Brushes and erasers

The HUD has three tools, top left of the window: the brush is selected by default. The next one smoothes out edges and is also an eraser. Click on that window's cog wheel to explore further options available to you – **Overlay** shows where you applied an effect.

Audio is a crucial aspect of any video and iMovie doesn't skimp on the tools.


iMovie File Edit Clip View Text Share Window Help
iMovie
Project Library
Project – Conservation in Action
1:15 total
Press the Space bar to play.
Precision Editor
Audio Offset: 1.7s
Done
MacBook Pro

Improve your movie's audio

Audio is as important as your visuals, and iMovie can help you refine it

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iMovie '11, a movie project, a basic understanding of the iMovie interface

When it comes to editing video, it doesn't come much easier than *iMovie*. Everything is made as effortless as the programmers could figure out – at least for now: from organising clips, previewing them, selecting segments to include in your project, applying effects, titles, transitions and so on. But with so much attention to your visuals you'd be forgiven for thinking that *iMovie* lacks any audio tools.

In fact, we covered some of the new features that were introduced with *iMovie '11* back in *MF229*, including some new audio tools. But that's not the be all and end all of *iMovie '11* when it comes to working with audio…

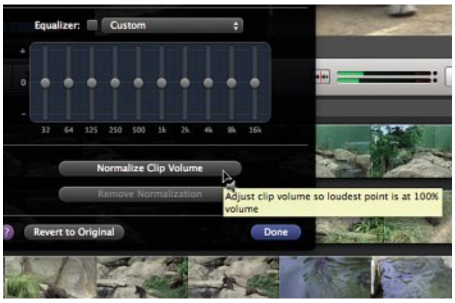
With each successive version, *iMovie* has evolved to become a very versatile audio editor, so there's no need to feel like you have to export your sound into *GarageBand* to achieve even the most basic modifications. There's obviously nothing stopping you from taking a trip to *GarageBand*, but there should now be enough tools at your disposal within *iMovie* to keep from going elsewhere for most of your needs.

> *"With so much attention on visuals you'd be forgiven for thinking iMovie lacks any audio tools"*

This tutorial will be taking a broad look at what you can achieve with your audio tracks in *iMovie* and how improving your audio will make your project more entertaining and pleasurable to watch.

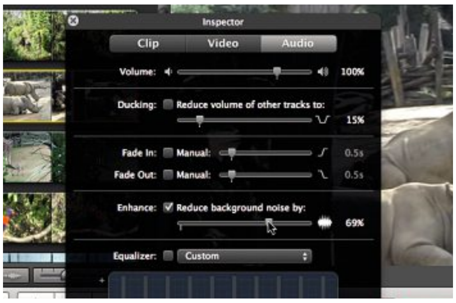
You'll need to create a new project or bring one in that you've already worked on. If you're reluctant to modify it for the purposes of this tutorial, make a copy of it, keeping the original safe. To achieve this, go to *iMovie*'s project library (which can be accessed from the menu bar's Window menu), ctrl-click on the desired project and choose Duplicate Project. Once that's done, select the copy and you're ready to start manipulating multiple audio tracks.
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Adjust multiple audio tracks in iMovie


Equalizer: ☐ Custom
+
0
-
32
64
125
250
500
1k
2k
4k
8k
16k
Normalize Clip Volume
Remove Normalization
Adjust clip volume so loudest point is at 100% volume
Revert to Original
Done

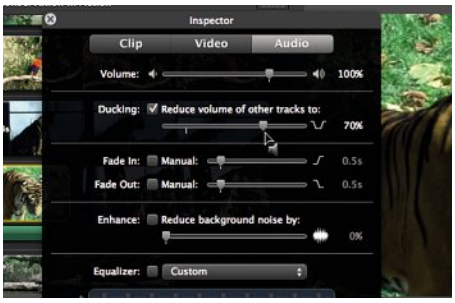
01 Normalise

Double-click on a clip in your project to open up the Inspector window. Select the **Audio** tab to reveal most of your available tools. Start by clicking **Normalise Clip Volume** at the bottom. This increases the clip's volume without distortion, until the loudest part reaches 100%.


Volume: 100%
Ducking: ☐ Reduce volume of other tracks to: 15%
Fade In: ☐ Manual: 0.5s
Fade Out: ☐ Manual: 0.5s
Enhance: ☑ Reduce background noise by: 69%
Equalizer: ☐ Custom
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio

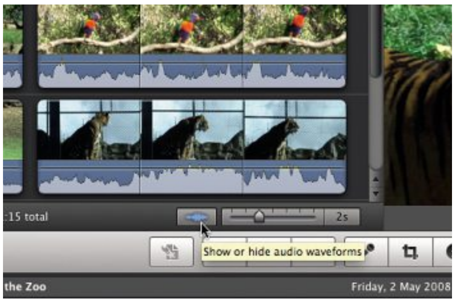
02 Enhance

The **Enhance** slider lets *iMovie* try and remove background noise to clean up audio and make the foreground sound clearer. It also works in real-time: hit [Space] to play a clip in a continuous loop. Next, move the **Enhance** slider left or right to hear how it affects the sound.


Volume: 100%
Ducking: ☑ Reduce volume of other tracks to: 70%
Fade In: ☐ Manual: 0.5s
Fade Out: ☐ Manual: 0.5s
Enhance: ☐ Reduce background noise by: 0%
Equalizer: ☐ Custom
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio

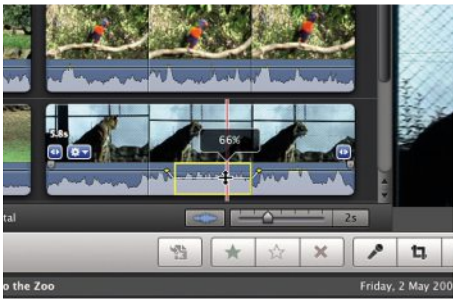
03 Ducking

If you add other tracks over your clip, both will compete for your ears, making it difficult to discern either. If you feel the current clip should take precedence over the others, play it as shown above and drag the **Ducking** slider until the sound level works for you.


:15 total
2s
Show or hide audio waveforms
the Zoo
Friday, 2 May 2008

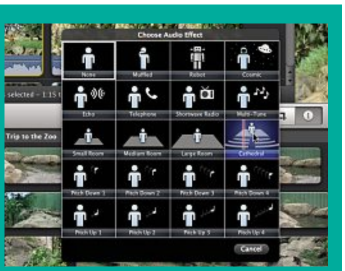
04 Waveforms

If altering the volume for a clip isn't precise enough, *iMovie '11* offers new audio controls. Close the Inspector and click the **Waveform** button to the left of the thumbnail display slider (bottom right of the **Project** section). This shows each clip's audio waveforms.


5.8s
66%
al
2s
o the Zoo
Friday, 2 May 200

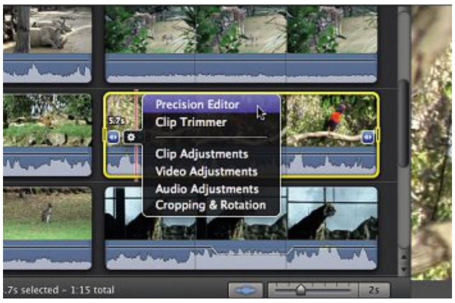
05 Selective alterations

To alter a part of your clip, click and drag on the audio area to create a selection. Alter it by dragging its edges. There's a horizontal line across your audio depicting the current volume. Drag it up or down within the selection to change it without affecting the rest of your clip.


Choose Audio Effect
None
Muffled
Robot
Cosmic
Echo
Telephone
Shortwave Radio
Multi-Tune
Small Room
Medium Room
Large Room
Cathedral
Pitch Down 1
Pitch Down 2
Pitch Down 3
Pitch Down 4
Pitch Up 1
Pitch Up 2
Pitch Up 3
Pitch Up 4
Cancel
selected – 1:15 t
Trip to the Zoo

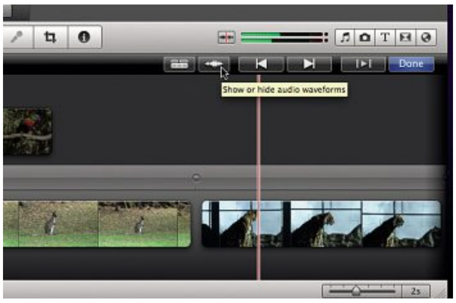
QUICK TIP

Along with existing video effects, *iMovie '11* now has audio effects. They aren't located in the Inspector's **Audio** tab, but the **Clip** tab instead. Just like the video effects, you can only apply one per clip. You can't, say, have a Cosmic *and* a Robot effect.


Precision Editor
Clip Trimmer
Clip Adjustments
Video Adjustments
Audio Adjustments
Cropping & Rotation
5.7s
.7s selected – 1:15 total
2s

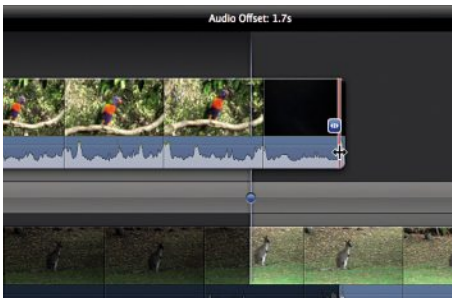
06 The Precision Editor

Need to cut to another clip visually while keeping the audio from the first clip? *iMovie* can do that. In order to achieve this effect, mouse over the clip whose audio you'd like to extend to reveal a few buttons. Click on the cog wheel and select **Precision Editor**.


Done
Show or hide audio waveforms
2s

07 The Editor's waveform

The **Events** section is replaced by a more zoomed-in version of your project, focusing on your current clip at the top and the following one at the bottom. This tool is used mostly to fine-tune a cut from one clip to another. Click on the waveform button, top right of that section.


Audio Offset: 1.7s

08 Audio extension

Mouse over the playhead. In order for this to work, your cursor must be over the audio waveform section, not the video. It'll turn into a resize tool. Click and drag it to the right to keep on listening to that track. To mute the other audio, drag it also to the right. ●

HOME INSURANCE INVENTORY
PHOTOS DOCUMENTING HOUSE AND EACH ROOM
Home Insurance.xls
MacBook Pro

Make Numbers and Excel play nice together once and for all.

Use Numbers' export options

Make sure your spreadsheets work in Microsoft Office as they do in iWork

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iWork, OS X Leopard or higher

As Mac users, we all know the benefits of Apple software. Not only does it offer us all of the brilliant features and ease of use that come as standard with OS X, it also looks great. *iWork* is no exception and provides a welcome break from the mundane, clip-art focused world of *Microsoft Office*.

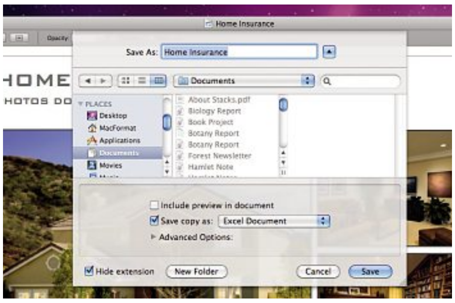
The time comes, however, when both *iWork* and *Office* must meet and, in the past, this hasn't been the happiest of unions. Fortunately, Apple has seen fit to add a little more compatibility within *iWork* toward its Redmond-made counterpart and this is especially true in *Numbers*, an app that is likely to see the most cross-over of files between the two suites. Microsoft's *Excel* isn't designed to look good; it's a business user's tool and one that does its job very well – it just doesn't play well with *Numbers'* polish. Similarly, *Numbers* doesn't work in the same way as *Excel* when it comes to layout and, in some cases, formulae, so there are conflicts there too. Both applications have their own way of dealing with spreadsheets but the export options we will be using in this guide should serve to clean up the process.

> *"iWork and Office eventually must meet and, in the past, this hasn't been the happiest of unions"*

In this tutorial, we'll not only show you how to export and import *Excel* files to and from *Numbers*, but we'll also show you how you can spot and fix issues that often occur when you do. Whether you want to send a *Numbers* file to an *Excel* user or open an *Excel* document on your Mac with *Numbers*, we'll show you the best route to avoid errors and prevent major disagreements between the two applications that, sometimes, can produce serious discrepancies between documents. And, if you have a copy of both applications on your Mac, you will discover how to move files between *Excel* and *Numbers* without the headaches. Let's get started…

Ben Harvell

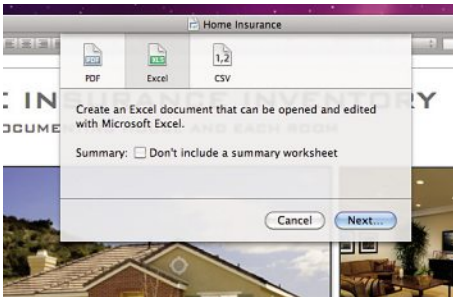
HOW TO / Import and export Excel files with Numbers


Save As: Home Insurance
☐ Include preview in document
☑ Save copy as: Excel Document
☑ Hide extension

Home Insurance
Documents
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
Movies
About Stacks.pdf
Biology Report
Book Project
Botany Report
Botany Report
Forest Newsletter
Hamlet Note
Advanced Options:
New Folder
Cancel
Save

01 Open up

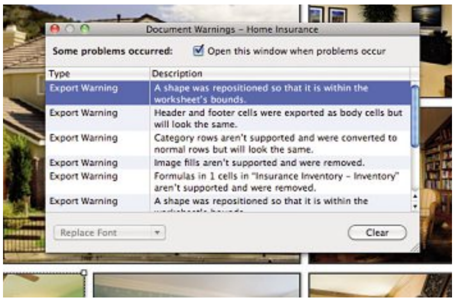
Start by opening your document in *Numbers*. We've got a home insurance document that includes charts, tables and images. Head to the **File** menu and select **Save As**, making sure to check the **Save copy as** box, and choose **Excel Document** from the menu.


Create an Excel document that can be opened and edited with Microsoft Excel.
Summary: ☐ Don't include a summary worksheet

Home Insurance
PDF
Excel
CSV
Cancel
Next...

02 An alternative option

For more control, select **Export** from the **Share** menu in *Numbers*. Select the **Excel** tab and choose to include a summary worksheet or not. This will be added to the first page of your *Excel* document and will explain its origin. Next you can select a destination to save the file to.

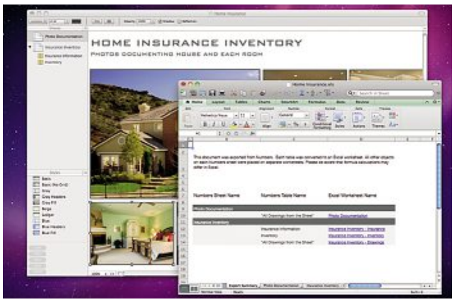

Document Warnings – Home Insurance
Some problems occurred: ☑ Open this window when problems occur

Type	Description
Export Warning	A shape was repositioned so that it is within the worksheet's bounds.
Export Warning	Header and footer cells were exported as body cells but will look the same.
Export Warning	Category rows aren't supported and were converted to normal rows but will look the same.
Export Warning	Image fills aren't supported and were removed.
Export Warning	Formulas in 1 cells in "Insurance Inventory – Inventory" aren't supported and were removed.
Export Warning	A shape was repositioned so that it is within the

Replace Font
Clear

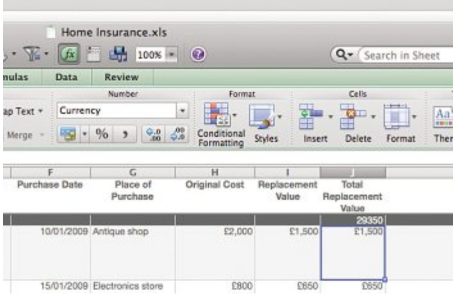
03 Warning signs

When exporting your file to *Excel* format, a warning screen appears. This screen displays all potential errors or changes that need to be made in order to export successfully to an *Excel* document. Clicking on each warning will highlight the element in your document.


HOME INSURANCE INVENTORY
PHOTOS DOCUMENTING HOUSE AND EACH ROOM

04 Open in Excel

If you have *Excel*, you can check the outcome of your *Numbers* export; if not, note that each table in *Numbers* will be made into an *Excel* worksheet and a worksheet will be created for each element. If you opted to include it, a summary sheet will explain each of them.


Home Insurance.xls

Purchase Date	Place of Purchase	Original Cost	Replacement Value	Total Replacement Value
				29350
10/01/2009	Antique shop	£2,000	£1,500	£1,500
15/01/2009	Electronics store	£800	£650	£650

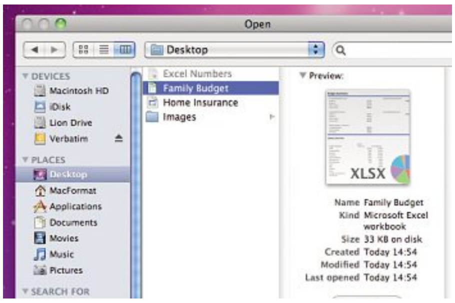
Data
Review
Number
Format
Cells
Currency
Conditional Formatting
Styles
Insert
Delete
Format
100%
Search in Sheet

05 Formula fixes

Formulae tend to go awry when exporting a *Numbers* document for use in *Excel*. If you can, check each formula within the *Excel* document to make sure they're working; that, or remove the formulas from the original document and note where to add them later.

QUICK TIP

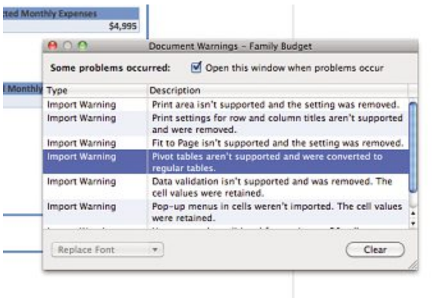
As well as *Numbers* documents, you can view *Excel* files on your Mac using Quick Look. Simply select the file in the *Finder* and hit [Space] to view the file. This is a handy way to check a document exported from *Numbers* to *Excel* format without having to open the app. For further checks, you could even export a *Numbers* document as an *Excel* file and then open the *Excel* file in *Numbers*.


Name Family Budget
Kind Microsoft Excel workbook
Size 33 KB on disk
Created Today 14:54
Modified Today 14:54
Last opened Today 14:54

Open
Desktop
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
iDisk
Lion Drive
Verbatim
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
Movies
Music
Pictures
SEARCH FOR
Excel Numbers
Family Budget
Home Insurance
Images
Preview:
XLSX

06 Excel in Numbers

Unlike *Excel*, *Numbers* can open most spreadsheet documents. You should be able to simply select your XLS file and open it in *Numbers* by either dragging it onto the Dock icon or locating the file in *Finder* - choose **Open** from the **File** menu in *Numbers*.

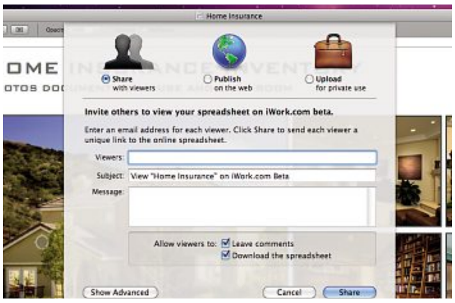

Document Warnings – Family Budget
Some problems occurred: ☑ Open this window when problems occur

Type	Description
Import Warning	Print area isn't supported and the setting was removed.
Import Warning	Print settings for row and column titles aren't supported and were removed.
Import Warning	Fit to Page isn't supported and the setting was removed.
Import Warning	Pivot tables aren't supported and were converted to regular tables.
Import Warning	Data validation isn't supported and was removed. The cell values were retained.
Import Warning	Pop-up menus in cells weren't imported. The cell values were retained.

ted Monthly Expenses
$4,995
Replace Font
Clear

07 Importing issues

Just like when you export a *Numbers* document to *Excel*, there will be some changes when you import an *Excel* document to *Numbers*. A window will pop up explaining any changes made and you can click on each to view the related element.


● Share with viewers ○ Publish on the web ○ Upload for private use

Invite others to view your spreadsheet on iWork.com beta.

Enter an email address for each viewer. Click Share to send each viewer a unique link to the online spreadsheet.

Viewers:
Subject: View "Home Insurance" on iWork.com Beta
Message:
Allow viewers to: ☑ Leave comments
☑ Download the spreadsheet

Home Insurance
Show Advanced
Cancel
Share

08 If all else fails...

If you can't make things work between *Numbers* and *Excel*, there's a final option. Upload your file to **iWork.com** and it can be viewed and edited without having to be opened in an app. Select **iWork.com** from the **Share** menu to do so. You can even grab a free trial. ●

Rescue iOS device data

Use PhoneView to back up and restore iOS device files to your Mac

>> KEY INFO

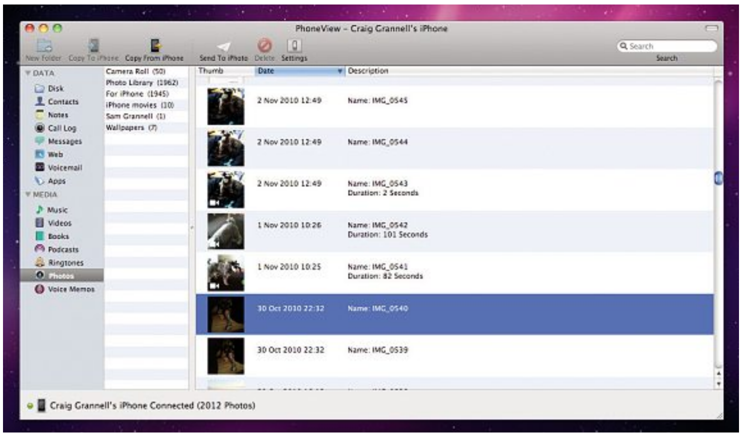
DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
An iOS device, Mac OS X 10.5+, iTunes 9.2+

The overriding philosophy behind many Apple products – hardware and software – is 'it just works'. Sadly, this isn't always the case and so you must be prepared for when things go wrong, especially when it comes to securing and safeguarding data. With a single Mac, this isn't a problem – you can usually get around hard drive failures by cloning daily to a backup drive; but when you add iOS devices to the mix, things become complicated, particularly if you've got several.

If your Mac keels over and you've no backup, *iTunes* may subsequently want to wipe your device clean, removing media and custom data (such as game saves and app documents). Sometimes, *iTunes* might throw a hissy fit anyway, causing similar issues, and it's not uncommon to find *iPhoto* helpfully refusing to import photos you've just taken. If you're lucky, none of these things will ever happen to you, but there's still a good chance you'll find the iOS document-sharing process in *iTunes* intolerable. Enter: *PhoneView*.


PhoneView – Craig Grannell's iPhone
New Folder
Copy To iPhone
Copy From iPhone
Send To iPhoto
Delete
Settings
Search
DATA
Disk
Contacts
Notes
Call Log
Messages
Web
Voicemail
Apps
MEDIA
Music
Videos
Books
Podcasts
Ringtones
Photos
Voice Memos
Camera Roll (50)
Photo Library (1962)
For iPhone (1945)
iPhone movies (10)
Sam Grannell (1)
Wallpapers (7)
Thumb
Date
Description

2 Nov 2010 12:49 Name: IMG_0545
2 Nov 2010 12:49 Name: IMG_0544
2 Nov 2010 12:49 Name: IMG_0543 Duration: 2 Seconds
1 Nov 2010 10:26 Name: IMG_0542 Duration: 101 Seconds
1 Nov 2010 10:25 Name: IMG_0541 Duration: 82 Seconds
30 Oct 2010 22:32 Name: IMG_0540
30 Oct 2010 22:32 Name: IMG_0539

Craig Grannell's iPhone Connected (2012 Photos)

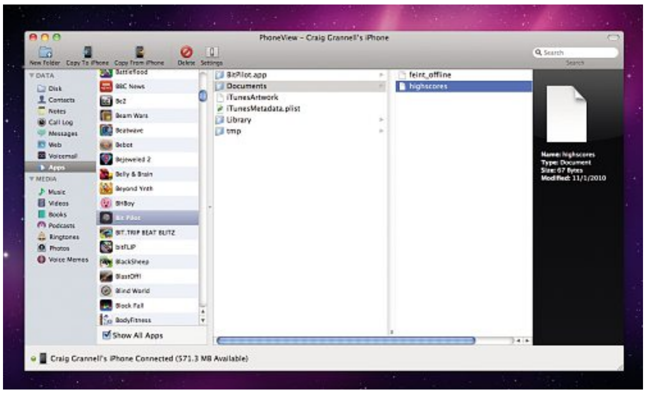
Photos can be saved to Finder or sent to iPhoto with ease by using PhoneView.

iOS data care

Ecamm's *PhoneView* grabbed itself a MacFormat Choice award two months ago, and we think it's an essential purchase for anyone who cares about their iOS device data. You can download a restricted demo from http://ecamm.com/mac/phoneview (item lists in the demo version are truncated) and the full version of *PhoneView* costs $20 (about £13). In short, the software lists content stored on your device, including data stored within apps. You can then make selections and save the data, and, in many cases, later restore data saved on your Mac. Therefore, if you need to restore a device, but you don't want to lose your progress in *Angry Birds* or *Cut the Rope*, you can make a backup of your scores, do a fresh install of everything, and then replace relevant files on your device. Likewise, if you've spent hours on *Riven*, but need the 1GB of space the game takes up, then save its files, remove the app, reinstall it later, and put your save files back. *PhoneView* also works in a similar manner with data from other apps, along with providing the means to back up music, photos, contacts, and more.

> *"If your Mac keels over and you've no backup, iTunes may subsequently want to wipe your device clean, removing media and custom data"*

Use PhoneView to access, back up and restore game saves and data from apps.


PhoneView – Craig Grannell's iPhone
New Folder
Copy To iPhone
Copy From iPhone
Delete
Settings
Search
DATA
Disk
Contacts
Notes
Call Log
Messages
Web
Voicemail
Apps
MEDIA
Music
Videos
Books
Podcasts
Ringtones
Photos
Voice Memos
Battlefood
BBC News
Bc2
Beam Wars
Beatwave
Bebot
Bejeweled 2
Belly & Brain
Beyond Ynth
BHBoy
Bit Pilot
BIT.TRIP BEAT BLITZ
bitFLIP
BlackSheep
BlastOff!
Blind World
Block Fall
BodyFitness
Show All Apps
BitPilot.app
Documents
iTunesArtwork
iTunesMetadata.plist
Library
tmp
feint_offline
highscores

Name: highscores
Type: Document
Size: 67 Bytes
Modified: 11/1/2010

Craig Grannell's iPhone Connected (571.3 MB Available)

Cover your back

The app works with vanilla devices – you don't need to jailbreak anything (although *PhoneView* also works with jail-broken devices). And while we've found it does occasionally crash during use, we've never lost any data. However, it is possible to lose data manually, and so before we go through the process of working with *PhoneView*, we must make something extremely clear: this application enables far more access to your device's data than *iTunes*. So only delete or replace items when you're confident of doing so, and never delete content – especially within apps – unless you're sure it's safe to do so. Also note that *PhoneView*'s interface changes depending on the attached device. For example, the **Data** and **Media** sections only show options relevant to your device, and the **Copy From** and **Copy To** buttons append a device's type (iPad, iPhone).

If you're paranoid about your device's data, make a copy of the backup *iTunes* creates beforehand. Backups are saved in **/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/Backup**, in a folder named with your device's UDID. Copy this folder elsewhere on your hard drive and move it back later if you need to.

Craig Grannell

» HOW TO / Rescue data with PhoneView

01 Back up music and other media

Select **Music** from the sidebar. A list of your tracks will load in *PhoneView*'s main pane. Preview a track by selecting it and using the play control at the bottom-right of the window. To copy tracks, drag them to a *Finder* window, select them and click the toolbar's **Copy From** button (and then choose a save location), or select them and click **Send To iTunes** to have *iTunes* import them. Videos, books and podcasts can be rescued similarly.

02 Save photos

Select **Photos** in the sidebar to see thumbnails and basic data about each stored photo (or video). You can restrict the list to an album's items by selecting the album in the smaller of the two columns. To save photos, select one or more albums (from the smaller column) or photos (from the main list) and drag to *Finder*, or click **Copy From** and select a save location. Alternatively, click **Send To iPhoto** to have *iPhoto* import your selection.

03 Save device data

To access general device data, click **Contacts** to see your contacts list, which can be filtered by **Search** or by choosing a group from the small column. Groups or single contacts can be dragged to *Finder*; each contact is saved as an individual VCF file. Send any selection to *Address Book* by clicking **Send To Address Book**. Save *Safari* bookmarks and history by selecting **Web** and choosing items to save (each is saved as an individual .webloc file).

04 Access call log and messages

Select **Call Log** to view calls made on your device. A selection can be sent to *Finder* (by dragging it or using **Copy From**) as a tab-delimited TXT file. Select **Messages** to see your text messages (an option in *PhoneView*'s preferences toggles the 'bubbles' theme); each selection is saved as a PDF. With both call logs and messages, *PhoneView* automatically saves archives on connection; access these using the **Archives** button.

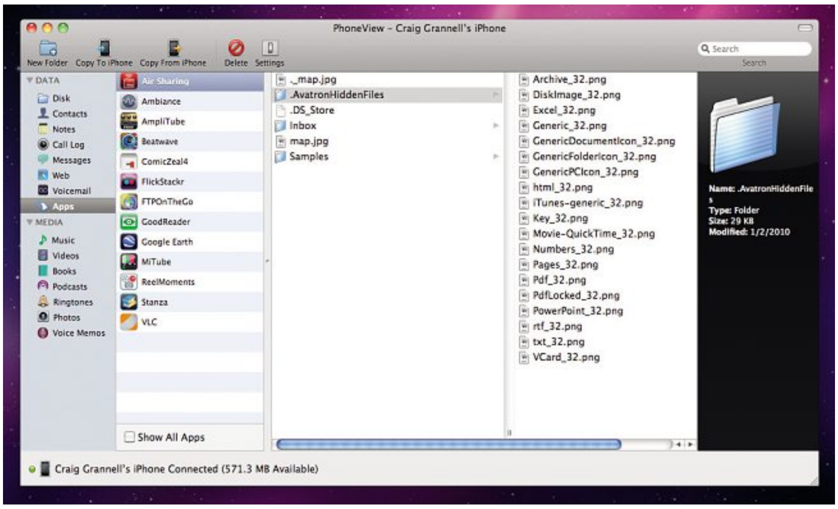
05 Manage app data

Officially, *iTunes* enables you to share files with certain apps. To do this, you attach your device to your Mac, open *iTunes*, select your device in the *iTunes* sidebar, select **Apps**, scroll down, select an app to view its docs, drag and drop docs to the 'documents' well and wonder why the process is so convoluted. In *PhoneView*, things are simpler and faster, working more like *Finder*'s column view. To get started, select **Apps** in the **PhoneView** sidebar's **Data** section. Choose the app whose data you want to view and files and folders will appear in the next column. These can be navigated as in *Finder*. You can then drag and drop items between *PhoneView* and *Finder* windows, or you can select items and use the toolbar's **Copy To** and **Copy From** buttons. Beware when deleting files – don't remove anything you're not sure about.

06 Back up game saves

Videogame saves are pretty fragile on iOS devices. Although progress is saved to *iTunes*, it can be lost if your Mac goes screwy, and it's also removed if you delete an app. While it's relatively easy to delete games by mistake, people also sometimes find they must delete them on purpose, because of the limited storage capacity of iOS devices. To back up game saves, select **Apps** and check **Show All Apps** to list every app on your device. Select a game (such as *Angry Birds*) and you'll see associated files. The *Angry Birds* high score save is in **Documents/highscores.lua**. Reinstating that in a fresh install of *Angry Birds* should restore your scores and progress.

Apps aren't always so helpful when it comes to save locations and naming, so we recommend you create a folder on your Mac with the name of the game and copy across the entirety of its **/Documents** and **/Library** folders. To later reinstate the data to a fresh install of a game, select it in *PhoneView* and copy the saved folders across (click **Replace** when asked). Note that this technique also works with many non-gaming apps; for example, you can get at **NanoStudio** recordings (**Documents/User/Projects**) and move them between devices, or grab downloaded TED talks (MP4 files in **/Documents**) that can then be sent to *iTunes*. ●


PhoneView – Craig Grannell's iPhone
New Folder
Copy To iPhone
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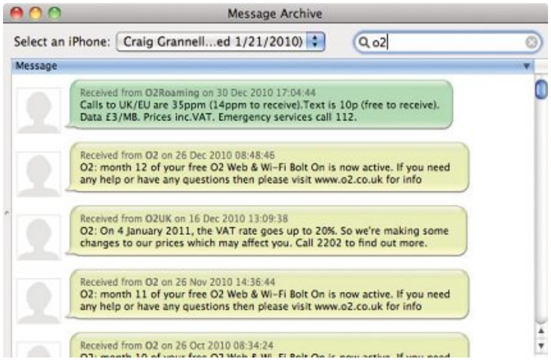
Music
Videos
Books
Podcasts
Ringtones
Photos
Voice Memos
Air Sharing
Ambiance
AmpliTube
Beatwave
ComicZeal4
FlickStackr
FTPOnTheGo
GoodReader
Google Earth
MiTube
ReelMoments
Stanza
VLC
Show All Apps
._map.jpg
.AvatronHiddenFiles
.DS_Store
Inbox
map.jpg
Samples
Archive_32.png
DiskImage_32.png
Excel_32.png
Generic_32.png
GenericDocumentIcon_32.png
GenericFolderIcon_32.png
GenericPCIcon_32.png
html_32.png
iTunes-generic_32.png
Key_32.png
Movie-QuickTime_32.png
Numbers_32.png
Pages_32.png
Pdf_32.png
PdfLocked_32.png
PowerPoint_32.png
rtf_32.png
txt_32.png
VCard_32.png
Name: .AvatronHiddenFiles
Type: Folder
Size: 29 KB
Modified: 1/2/2010
Craig Grannell's iPhone Connected (571.3 MB Available)

PhoneView provides access to more files than iTunes - don't delete something unless you're sure!

» QUICK TIP

Be patient when you work with *PhoneView*. While media data is listed almost instantaneously, other data can take some time for the application to access and list (with the exception of app data).


Message Archive
Select an iPhone:
Craig Grannell...ed 1/21/2010)
o2
Message

Received from O2Roaming on 30 Dec 2010 17:04:44
Calls to UK/EU are 35ppm (14ppm to receive).Text is 10p (free to receive). Data £3/MB. Prices inc.VAT. Emergency services call 112.

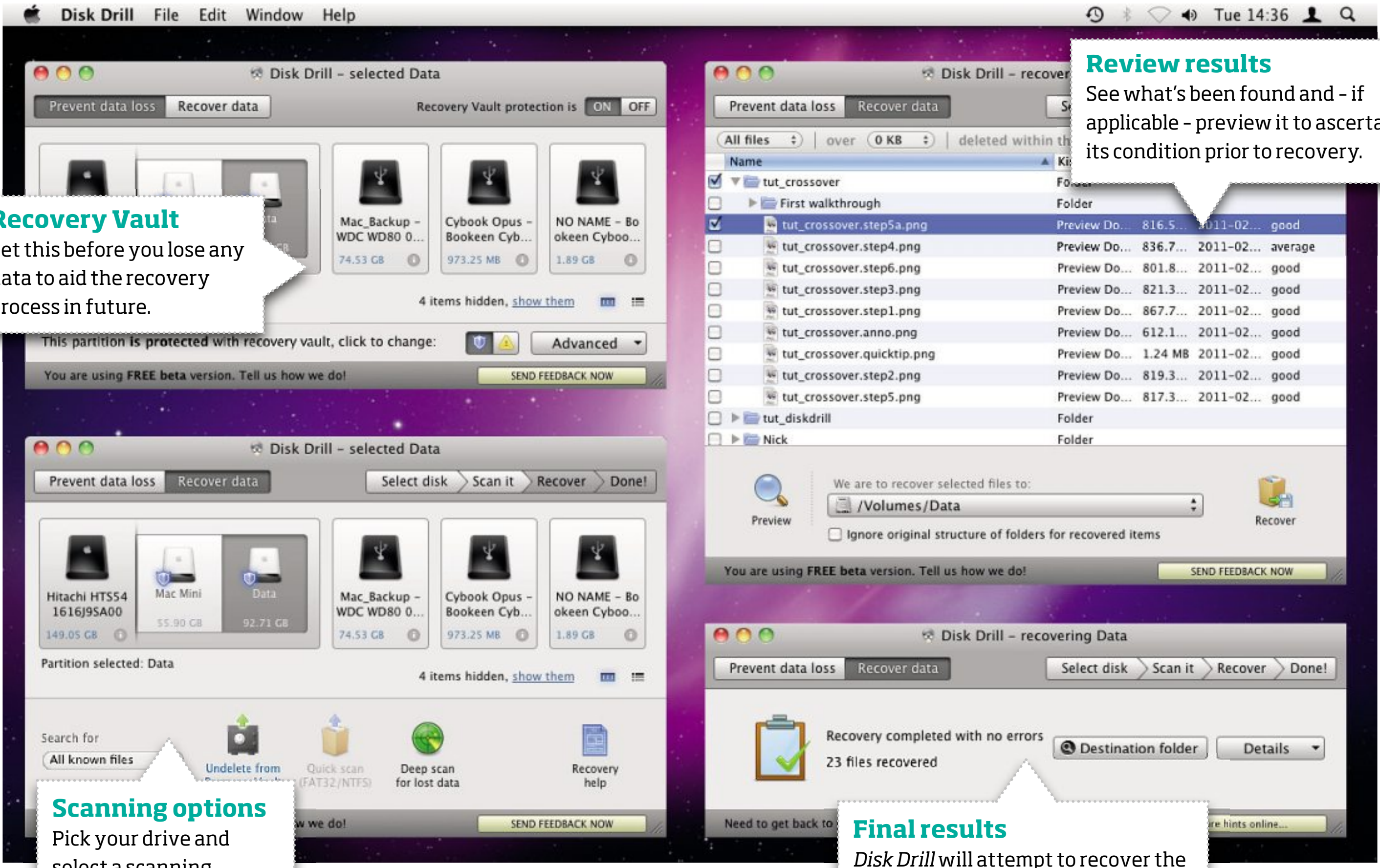
Received from O2 on 26 Dec 2010 08:48:46
O2: month 12 of your free O2 Web & Wi-Fi Bolt On is now active. If you need any help or have any questions then please visit www.o2.co.uk for info

Received from O2UK on 16 Dec 2010 13:09:38
O2: On 4 January 2011, the VAT rate goes up to 20%. So we're making some changes to our prices which may affect you. Call 2202 to find out more.

Received from O2 on 26 Nov 2010 14:36:44
O2: month 11 of your free O2 Web & Wi-Fi Bolt On is now active. If you need any help or have any questions then please visit www.o2.co.uk for info

Received from O2 on 26 Oct 2010 08:34:24

PhoneView automatically archives an iPhone's text messages and call logs.


Disk Drill File Edit Window Help
Tue 14:36
Disk Drill – selected Data
Prevent data loss
Recover data
Recovery Vault protection is ON OFF
Mac_Backup – WDC WD80 0...
74.53 GB
Cybook Opus – Bookeen Cyb...
973.25 MB
NO NAME – Bookeen Cyboo...
1.89 GB
4 items hidden, show them
Advanced
SEND FEEDBACK NOW
Select disk
Scan it
Recover
Done!
Hitachi HTS541616J9SA00
149.05 GB
Mac Mini
55.90 GB
Data
92.71 GB
Search for
All known files
Undelete from
Quick scan (FAT32/NTFS)
Deep scan for lost data
Recovery help
Disk Drill – recover
All files
over
0 KB
deleted within th
Preview
Recover
Disk Drill – recovering Data
Destination folder
Details

This partition is protected with recovery vault, click to change:

You are using FREE beta version. Tell us how we do!

Partition selected: Data

Name	Ki			
☑ tut_crossover	Folder			
☐ First walkthrough	Folder			
☑ tut_crossover.step5a.png	Preview Do...	816.5...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.step4.png	Preview Do...	836.7...	2011-02...	average
☐ tut_crossover.step6.png	Preview Do...	801.8...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.step3.png	Preview Do...	821.3...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.step1.png	Preview Do...	867.7...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.anno.png	Preview Do...	612.1...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.quicktip.png	Preview Do...	1.24 MB	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.step2.png	Preview Do...	819.3...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_crossover.step5.png	Preview Do...	817.3...	2011-02...	good
☐ tut_diskdrill	Folder			
☐ Nick	Folder			

We are to recover selected files to: /Volumes/Data

☐ Ignore original structure of folders for recovered items

Recovery completed with no errors
23 files recovered

Recovery Vault
Set this before you lose any data to aid the recovery process in future.

Review results
See what's been found and – if applicable – preview it to ascertain its condition prior to recovery.

Scanning options
Pick your drive and select a scanning method to start the recovery process.

Final results
Disk Drill will attempt to recover the file to your chosen drive or folder and present you with the results.

Recover lost and deleted files

Rescue data from your hard drive for free with assistance from Disk Drill

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: OS X 10.5 or later, Disk Drill

>> ON THE DISC

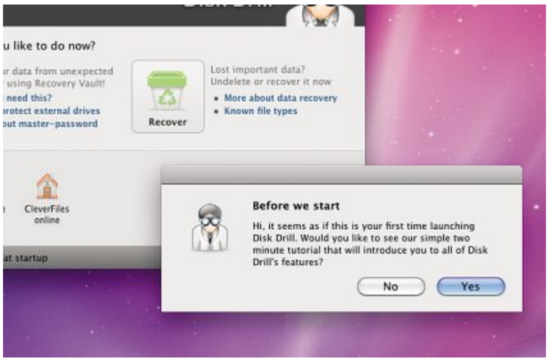
A beta of *Disk Drill* is offered on your disc.

However careful you are about backing up, data loss can still occur. Thankfully there's a small window of opportunity after a file has been accidentally deleted or lost where a program like *Disk Drill* can offer a way back for your precious files.

Data recovery can be a complicated process because of the way your Mac's HFS/HFS+ drive works: when a file is deleted, all its identifying markers are lost (including its filename), making recovery a slow, complicated and difficult process. *Disk Drill* can perform a deep scan to find this data, but it also provides a unique feature called **Recovery Vault**. This builds a catalogue of all the files on your hard drive, so if they're subsequently deleted, the program has enough information to locate the file and – if it's recoverable – restore it with all its information intact.

Disk Drill is free as a beta, and while there's no word on pricing yet, the developers have hinted a free edition will be available. The app also works with digital cameras, MP3 players, eBook readers and other devices – if your Mac recognises the drive, *Disk Drill* could help you.

Nick Peers


u like to do now?
Recover
Lost important data? Undelete or recover it now
More about data recovery
Known file types
CleverFiles online
at startup

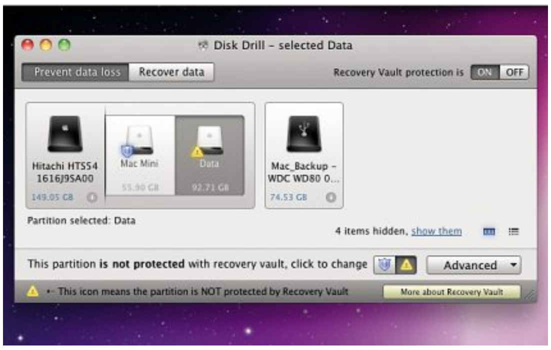
Before we start

Hi, it seems as if this is your first time launching Disk Drill. Would you like to see our simple two minute tutorial that will introduce you to all of Disk Drill's features?

No Yes

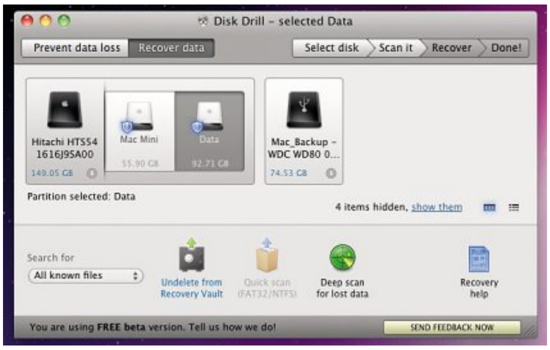
01 First steps

The best time to install *Disk Drill* is before you need to use it, so do so now. Launch the program from the **Applications** folder and install the **Recovery Vault** when prompted by entering your user password. The main window will appear along with an invitation to view a short tutorial: click **Yes** for an overview. Click **Exit** when done, then choose **Yes** to switch on automatic updates.


Disk Drill – selected Data
Prevent data loss
Recover data
Recovery Vault protection is
ON
OFF
Hitachi HTS54 1616J9SA00
149.05 GB
Mac Mini
55.90 GB
Data
92.71 GB
Mac_Backup – WDC WD80 0…
74.53 GB
Partition selected: Data
4 items hidden, show them
This partition is not protected with recovery vault, click to change
Advanced
This icon means the partition is NOT protected by Recovery Vault
More about Recovery Vault

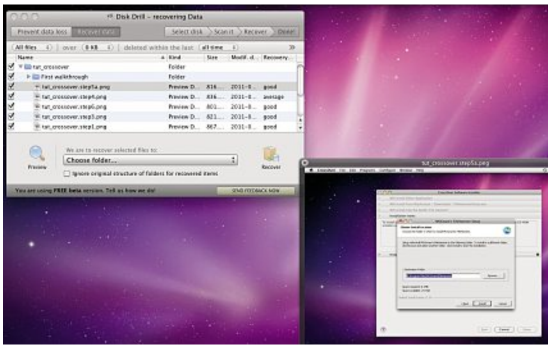
02 Install Recovery Vault

You'll be prompted to switch on the **Recovery Vault** – if you need to recover data immediately, choose **No** and jump to step three. Otherwise, click **Yes**. Only the startup disk is protected by default; if you have data on other drives to protect, click the **Protect** button, select the disk or partition and click the blue shield button to switch it on.


Disk Drill – selected Data
Prevent data loss
Recover data
Select disk
Scan it
Recover
Done!
Hitachi HTS54 1616J9SA00
149.05 GB
Mac Mini
55.90 GB
Data
92.71 GB
Mac_Backup – WDC WD80 0…
74.53 GB
Partition selected: Data
4 items hidden, show them
Search for
All known files
Undelete from Recovery Vault
Quick scan (FAT32/NTFS)
Deep scan for lost data
Recovery help
You are using FREE beta version. Tell us how we do!
SEND FEEDBACK NOW

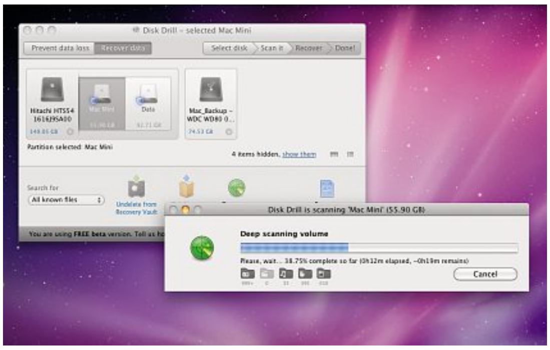
03 Start recovering data

The unthinkable has happened, and you've lost one or more important files. If it's on an external device or drive, plug it in and make sure your Mac recognises it. Launch *Disk Drill* and click **Recover** or select Window > Go to > Data recovery screen. Select the disk containing the lost data followed by the partition the data was stored on.


Disk Drill – recovering Data
Prevent data loss
Recover data
Select disk
Scan it
Recover
Done
Preview
Recover
You are using FREE beta version. Tell us how we do!
SEND FEEDBACK NOW

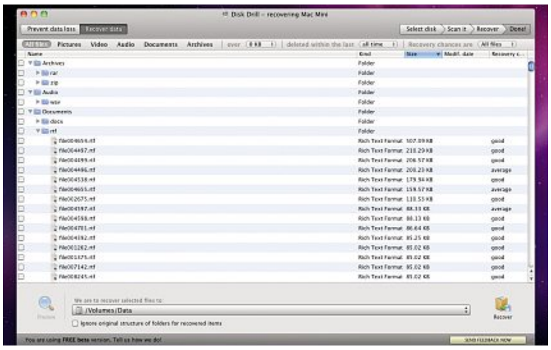
04 Use the Recovery Vault

If the option is enabled, click **Undelete** from **Recovery Vault**. The drive is scanned and a list of files is shown. Place a tick next to any files or folders you wish to recover, then click **Recover**. Select a folder – preferably on a different drive – and *Disk Drill* will go to work. A summary screen will tell if it was successful – click **Details** for more.


Disk Drill – selected Mac Mini
Prevent data loss
Recover data
Select disk
Scan it
Recover
Done
Partition selected: Mac Mini
4 items hidden, show them
Search for
All known files
Undelete from Recovery Vault
Disk Drill is scanning 'Mac Mini' (55.90 GB)
Deep scanning volume
Cancel

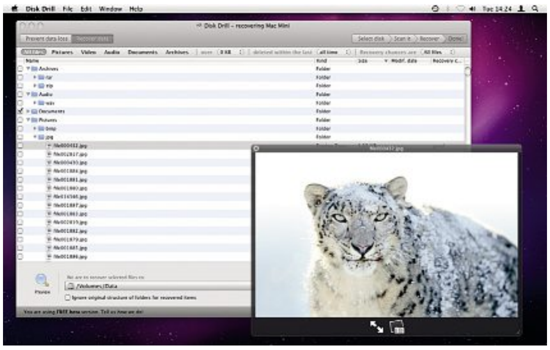
05 Perform a deep scan

If the data was lost before the **Recovery Vault** was enabled or it's not detected, choose **Deep scan for lost data**. Click **No** if prompted, then be prepared to wait while the scan is performed. The progress bar not only tells you how far the scan has progressed, but also lists the number of files found according to type.


Disk Drill – recovering Mac Mini
Prevent data loss
Recover data
Select disk
Scan it
Recover
Done
All files
Pictures
Video
Audio
Documents
Archives
/Volumes/Data
Recover
SEND FEEDBACK NOW

06 Review results

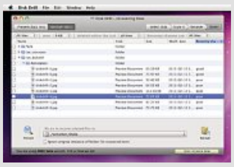
Results will be filtered according to type and file extension. Locating the file you're after will require looking through the list – if you know the rough size of your file it will help identify it. Click the **Size** column heading to sort the results list by size. Check the likelihood of recovery from the **Recovery Chances** column.


Disk Drill
File
Edit
Window
Help
Disk Drill – recovering Mac Mini
/Volumes/Data

07 Preview and recover

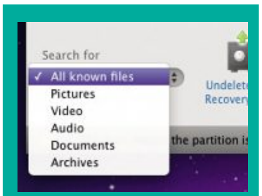
Certain file types can be previewed – select the file and if the **Preview** button is highlighted, click it. If you identify your file, click the **Recover** button and follow the same procedure as when using the **Recovery Vault**; alternatively, identify and select other lost files from the drive before attempting to recover them all. ●

>>EXPERT TIP



Acting fast

When a file is deleted from your hard drive, the area it resides in is marked as 'available' for other files to be written to, but the file itself isn't wiped. Until another file is written over the deleted data, there's a good chance *Disk Drill* will be able to recover it. That means the longer you wait before attempting recovery, the less chance you have of rescuing it because other files written to the drive may have overwritten part or all of the deleted data. When performing a deep scan, *Disk Drill* will list all files it finds, even fragments of files. These are then rated based on the likelihood of their recovery, but the only sure way of knowing is to try recovering the file in question. Improve your chances of recovery by saving the file to another drive.


Search for
✓ All known files
Pictures
Video
Audio
Documents
Archives
Undelete
Recovery
the partition is

>>QUICK TIP

Shorten the scan time by limiting your search to a specific type, such as pictures or documents, using the **Search for** drop-down menu before you choose the type of scan to perform.

Run Windows apps on a Mac

…without installing Windows! Prepare to be wowed by Crossover Mac

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: OS X 10.5 or later, CrossOver Mac - Impersonator Edition, some Windows software

ON THE DISC

A 30-day trial of *CrossOver* is on your disc

There are a number of ways of running Windows programs on your Mac, but *CrossOver Mac* has to be one of the most elegant. It's based on *Wine*, an open-source app for running Windows apps in OS X and Linux, but it provides a more user-friendly front end. The latest version, *CrossOver Mac Impersonator Edition*, takes things a step further with a new feature called CrossTie.

CrossTie ties in with a regularly updated online database to make it possible to install one of nearly 500 programs with a single click: you may need the original disc, or CrossTie will download the setup program for you. Each supported app is given a medal rating – gold, silver or bronze – based on how well the program runs under *CrossOver*.

Once you've installed *CrossOver* from your disc, open a web browser and go to **www.codeweavers.com/compatibility/browse/c4p** to search the list for your chosen application. If it's present, double-click its entry, click **Install via CrossTie** and follow the prompts.

If the program isn't present, launch *CrossOver Mac* from the **Applications** folder, choose **Install Windows Software** and expand Unsupported Applications > Community Supported Applications to review another 130 community-supported applications in the list – if your program's here, it's a simple process of installing it in *CrossOver Mac* (see below).

> *"There are many ways to run Windows apps on your Mac, but Crossover Mac is one of the most elegant"*

Many more Windows apps are also compatible with *CrossOver Mac*. Return to the CodeWeavers compatibility list and choose **Show All Applications** to see an expanded list of over 8,000 apps, over 1,000 of which are rated gold. If your program is listed, you'll be able to immediately see if it'll work or not: click its entry for more information. If your program isn't here, don't panic – it may still work. Everything you need to know about installing an unsupported program is covered in the step-by-step guide opposite.

The best thing about *CrossOver Mac* is the price: at just £26 from **www.codeweavers.com** it could save you a serious amount of cash if you've just switched from a Windows PC and can't afford to shell out for new alternatives to all your favourite Windows programs.

Nick Peers

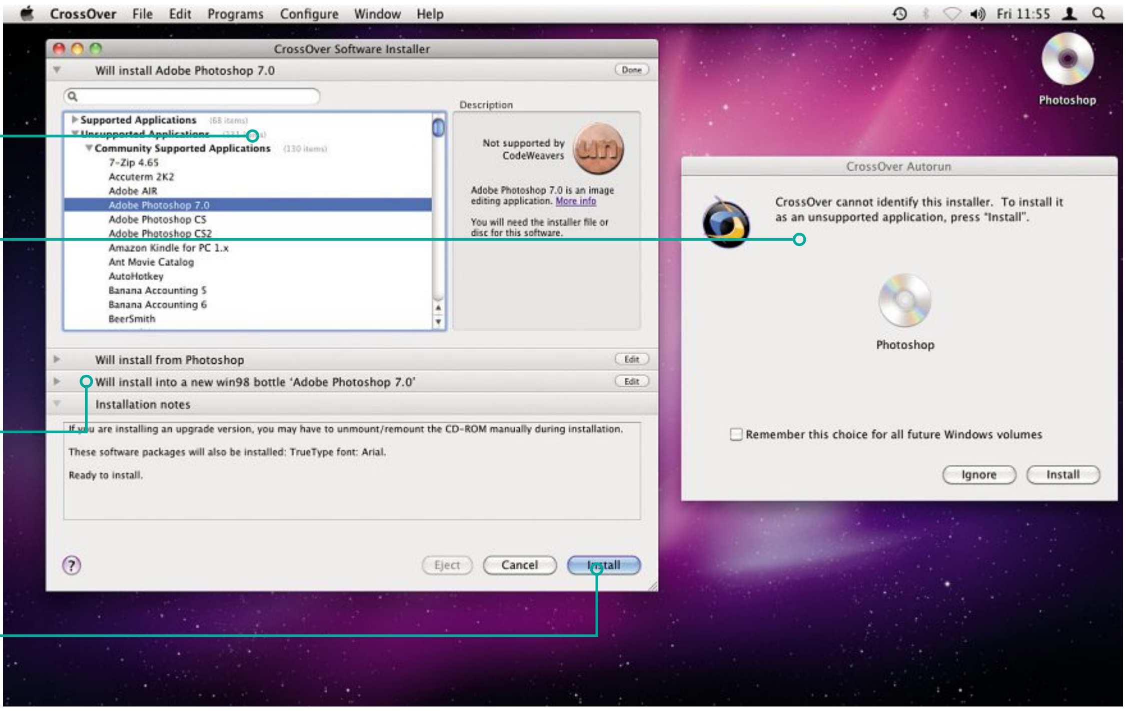
QUICK LOOK / Install a supported application

Choose app
Expand Supported or Community Supported Applications and select your chosen program.

Select installer
Insert the disc, or click Select followed by Choose Installer File.

Choose Bottle
Installing a supported app? *CrossOver* will set up the program bottle.

Install program
Click Proceed to install – just follow any setup prompts as normal.


CrossOver File Edit Programs Configure Window Help
Fri 11:55
Photoshop
CrossOver Software Installer
Will install Adobe Photoshop 7.0
Done
Supported Applications (68 items)
Unsupported Applications
Community Supported Applications (130 items)
7-Zip 4.65
Accuterm 2K2
Adobe AIR
Adobe Photoshop 7.0
Adobe Photoshop CS
Adobe Photoshop CS2
Amazon Kindle for PC 1.x
Ant Movie Catalog
AutoHotkey
Banana Accounting 5
Banana Accounting 6
BeerSmith
Description
Not supported by CodeWeavers
More info
Edit
Edit
Eject
Cancel
Install
CrossOver Autorun
Photoshop
Ignore
Install

Adobe Photoshop 7.0 is an image editing application. More info

You will need the installer file or disc for this software.

Will install from Photoshop

Will install into a new win98 bottle 'Adobe Photoshop 7.0'

Installation notes

If you are installing an upgrade version, you may have to unmount/remount the CD-ROM manually during installation.

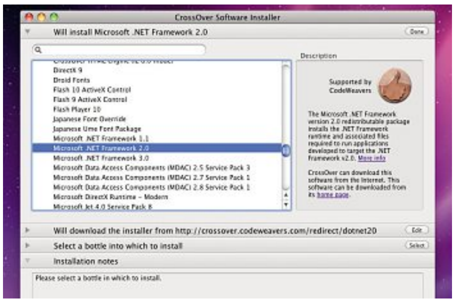
These software packages will also be installed: TrueType font: Arial.

Ready to install.

CrossOver cannot identify this installer. To install it as an unsupported application, press "Install".

☐ Remember this choice for all future Windows volumes

HOW TO / Install and update an unsupported application


CrossOver Software Installer

Will install Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0

DirectX 9
Droid Fonts
Flash 10 ActiveX Control
Flash 9 ActiveX Control
Flash Player 10
Japanese Font Override
Japanese Ume Font Package
Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1
Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0
Microsoft .NET Framework 3.0
Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) 2.5 Service Pack 3
Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) 2.7 Service Pack 1
Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) 2.8 Service Pack 1
Microsoft DirectX Runtime – Modern
Microsoft Jet 4.0 Service Pack 8

Description

Supported by CodeWeavers

The Microsoft .NET Framework version 2.0 redistributable package installs the .NET Framework runtime and associated files required to run applications developed to target the .NET Framework v2.0. More info

CrossOver can download this software from the Internet. This software can be downloaded from its home page.

Will download the installer from http://crossover.codeweavers.com/redirect/dotnet20

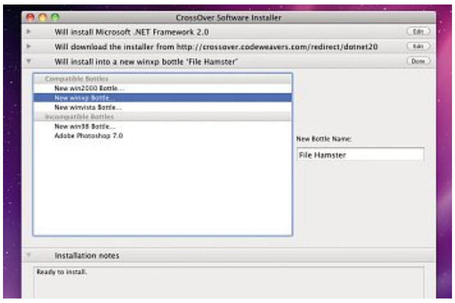
Select a bottle into which to install

Installation notes

Please select a bottle in which to install.

01 Review requirements

Make a note of any components listed by the program's requirements or on the WineHQ website (**http://appdb.winehq.org**) – these need to be installed first. Click **Install Windows Software** and select the first one under **Runtime Support Components**.


CrossOver Software Installer

Will install Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0

Will download the installer from http://crossover.codeweavers.com/redirect/dotnet20

Will install into a new winxp bottle 'File Hamster'

Compatible Bottles
New win2000 Bottle...
New winxp Bottle...
New winvista Bottle...
Incompatible Bottles
New win98 Bottle...
Adobe Photoshop 7.0

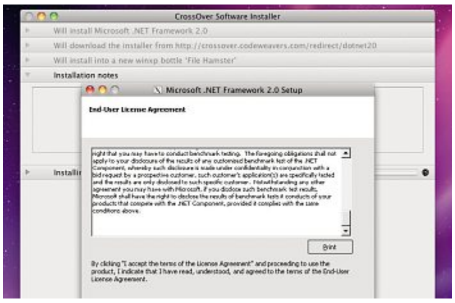
New Bottle Name: File Hamster

Installation notes

Ready to install.

02 Set up bottle

Click **Select** next to **Select a bottle into which to install**. Choose one of the **New** options, picking the Windows version likely to work with the program – XP is often the best choice. Then change the bottle name to the program you wish to install and click **Install**.


CrossOver Software Installer

Will install Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0

Will download the installer from http://crossover.codeweavers.com/redirect/dotnet20

Will install into a new winxp bottle 'File Hamster'

Installation notes

Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 Setup

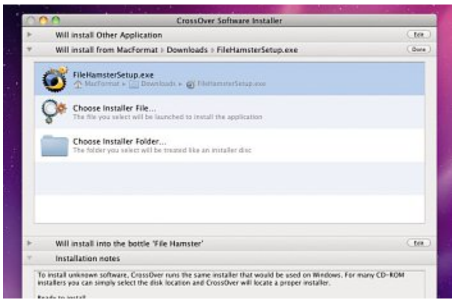
End-User License Agreement

right that you may have to conduct benchmark testing. The foregoing obligations shall not apply to your disclosure of the results of any customized benchmark test of the .NET Component, whereby such disclosure is made under confidentiality in conjunction with a bid request by a prospective customer, such customer's application(s) are specifically tested and the results are only disclosed to such specific customer. Notwithstanding any other agreement you may have with Microsoft, if you disclose such benchmark test results, Microsoft shall have the right to disclose the results of benchmark tests it conducts of your products that compete with the .NET Component, provided it complies with the same conditions above.

By clicking "I accept the terms of the License Agreement" and proceeding to use the product, I indicate that I have read, understood, and agreed to the terms of the End-User License Agreement.

03 Install prerequisites

Follow the prompts to complete the installation. Click **Done**, then go to Configure > Manage Bottles… Select your program bottle, switch to the **Applications** tab and click **Install Software…** From here, install any required components (**Core Fonts** improves readability).


CrossOver Software Installer

Will install Other Application

Will install from MacFormat › Downloads › FileHamsterSetup.exe

FileHamsterSetup.exe
MacFormat › Downloads › FileHamsterSetup.exe

Choose Installer File...
The file you select will be launched to install the application

Choose Installer Folder...
The folder you select will be treated like an installer disc

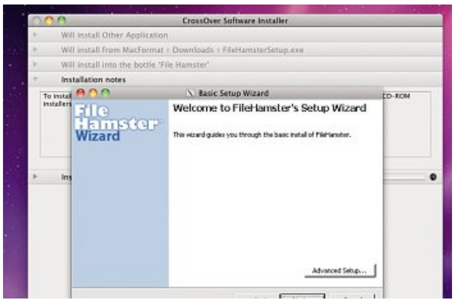
Will install into the bottle 'File Hamster'

Installation notes

To install unknown software, CrossOver runs the same installer that would be used on Windows. For many CD-ROM installers you can simply select the disk location and CrossOver will locate a proper installer.

04 Locate installer

Repeat the process to install software from the **Manage Bottles** dialog box, and choose **Other Application** under **Unsupported Applications**. Either insert the program disc, or click **Select** next to **Select an Installer** to select the setup file. Click **Install** when prompted.


CrossOver Software Installer

Will install Other Application

Will install from MacFormat › Downloads › FileHamsterSetup.exe

Will install into the bottle 'File Hamster'

Installation notes

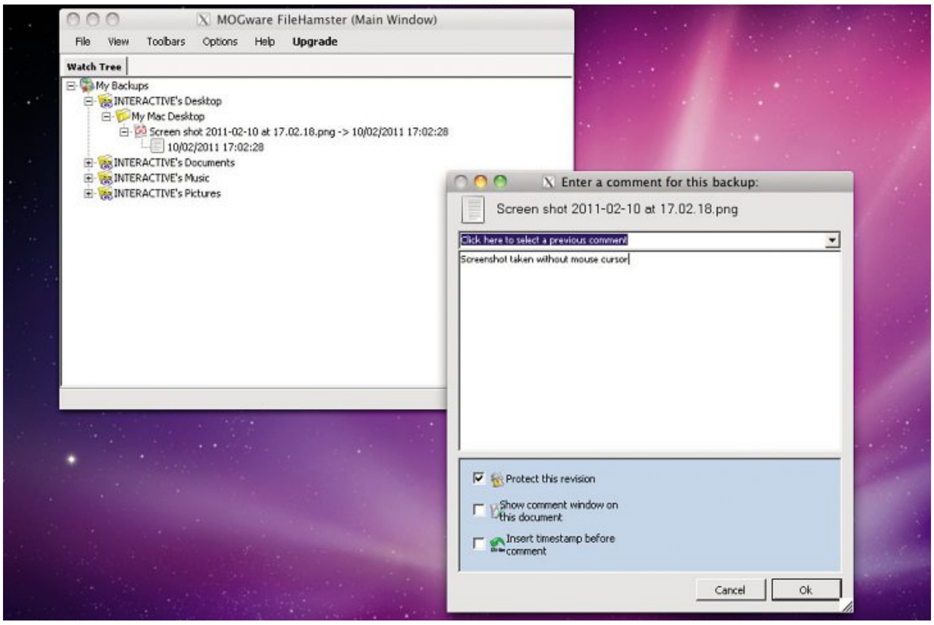
Basic Setup Wizard

Welcome to FileHamster's Setup Wizard

This wizard guides you through the basic install of FileHamster.

05 Install and test

Follow the setup prompts to install the app. When done, the app may launch itself or run a configuration wizard – work your way through this and let the program finish. Once it has finished, close the program via its **File** menu or by closing the main window.


MOGware FileHamster (Main Window)

Watch Tree

My Backups
INTERACTIVE's Desktop
My Mac Desktop
Screen shot 2011-02-10 at 17.02.18.png -> 10/02/2011 17:02:28
10/02/2011 17:02:28
INTERACTIVE's Documents
INTERACTIVE's Music
INTERACTIVE's Pictures

Enter a comment for this backup:

Screen shot 2011-02-10 at 17.02.18.png

Click here to select a previous comment

Screenshot taken without mouse cursor

☑ Protect this revision
☐ Show comment window on this document
☐ Insert timestamp before comment

06 Try out your program

Hopefully the program installs correctly – click **Done** to complete the process. A new window will appear with the shortcut icon showing: double-click this to launch the program (you can also access your apps from the **Programs** menu). Assuming it does open okay, you'll now need to test its functionality as certain things may not work. If the program crashes regularly, look for a program update. Some – like *Photoshop 7.0* – come as patches that are downloaded separately and installed by repeating steps four and five, using the patch file instead of the setup program; others can be updated through the program itself – look on the **About** or **Help** menu for the option. ●

FileHamster

QUICK TIP

Save time launching your favourite apps by adding their shortcut to the Dock – open your user folder and browse to Applications > CrossOver where you'll find shortcuts to all of the programs you've installed. Drag any of these onto the Dock for quick and easy access.

Sick of Safari? Give Google's Chrome a try and see what you think.

Mac FORMAT
Home Blog Podcast Newsletter Reviews Forum Resellers Subscriber About
From the team
30 Apple treasures
Win! An 11-inch MacBook Air and Scrivener 2!
MacBook Pro

Get the most from Chrome

As Google's browser reaches its ninth version, we look at its best features

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: An Intel Mac running OS X 10.5, Google Chrome browser

Most Mac users never venture far from *Safari* when it comes to web browsing, but *Google Chrome* is well worth a look. First released as a Windows-only application in late 2008, by the time it reached OS X last summer it was already on its fifth version. Early this year, version nine was released and it's got some features that are worth boasting about, which we'll reveal here.

First of all, Chrome Instant speeds up your web surfing by using real-time auto-completion of search terms and URLs typed into the Omnibox (*Chrome's* combined address box and search field), even loading web pages before you've finished typing. *Chrome* has long supported extensions too – small optional downloads that add extra functionality to your browser.

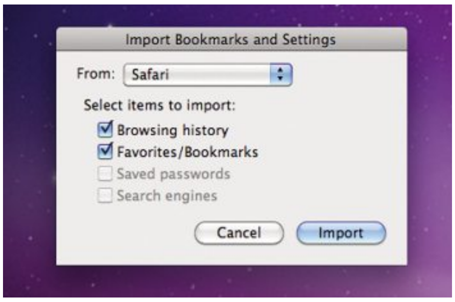
Google Chrome is free to download from **www.google.com/chrome**, and requires an Intel Mac running Leopard or Snow Leopard. On your first launch, you're given the choice of search engines to access from the Omnibox. You can opt for Google (of course), Ask.com or Yahoo. Pick your favourite. You're then asked if you want to make *Google Chrome* your default browser, opening when you click a URL in another application. If you're just trying it out and are unsure whether you want to stick with it, uncheck this option; you can always make it the default browser later, using *Chrome's* Preferences window. Finally, you can opt to automatically send usage statistics and crash reports to Google. This option is unchecked by default; activate it if you wish.

> *"Google Chrome now supports WebGL, allowing JavaScript to generate interactive 3D graphics"*

Google Chrome is well worth a look, even for a dyed-in-the-wool *Safari* user. It's main benefit is its speed. It's sleek, fast and boasts a range of unique features that we'll show you here.

Ian Osborne

HOW TO / Get the best out of Google Chrome



Import Bookmarks and Settings

From: Safari

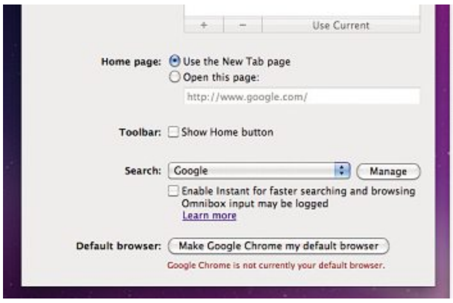
Select items to import:

☑ Browsing history
☑ Favorites/Bookmarks
☐ Saved passwords
☐ Search engines

Cancel
Import

01 Import browser settings

You can import settings from browsers such as *Safari* or *Firefox*. From the **Chrome** menu, select **Import Bookmarks** and **Settings**. In the pop-up window, select your browser and check the items you want to import. Items not available for the browser are greyed out.



Home page: ● Use the New Tab page
○ Open this page: http://www.google.com/

Toolbar: ☐ Show Home button

Search: Google

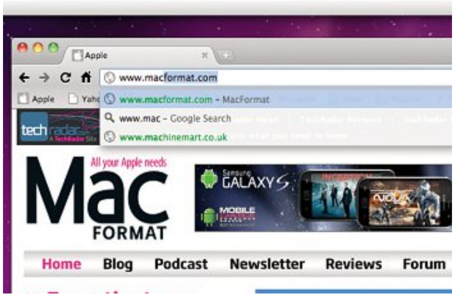
☐ Enable Instant for faster searching and browsing
Omnibox input may be logged
Learn more

Default browser: Make Google Chrome my default browser
Google Chrome is not currently your default browser.

Use Current
Manage

02 Chrome Instant

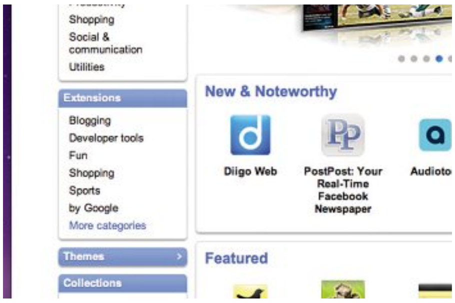
Instant is deactivated by default. Open the **Preferences** window from the **Chrome** menu bar, or press the spanner icon in the top-right corner of the window. In the **Preferences** window, access the **Basics** tab and check the **Enable Instant** box.



www.macformat.com
www.macformat.com – MacFormat
www.mac – Google Search
www.machinemart.co.uk
Mac FORMAT
Home
Blog
Podcast
Newsletter
Reviews
Forum

03 Auto-loading

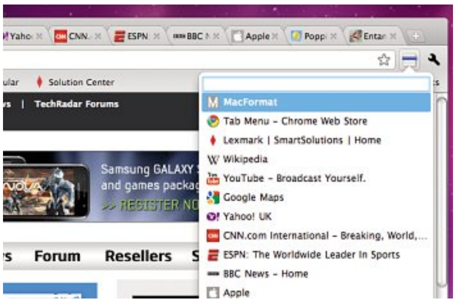
With **Chrome Instant** activated, websites are loaded as you type the URL – it doesn't wait for you to finish. With Google as your preferred search engine, it also works for searches too. As you type your search term, Google loads the search for the currently active auto-complete.



Shopping
Social & communication
Utilities
Extensions
Blogging
Developer tools
Fun
Shopping
Sports
by Google
More categories
Themes
Collections
New & Noteworthy
Diigo Web
PostPost: Your Real-Time Facebook Newspaper
Audioto
Featured

04 Get an extension

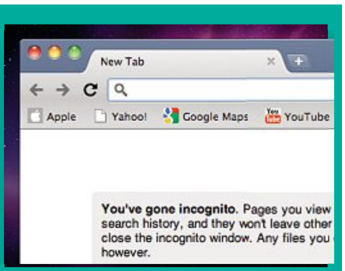
To add extensions, go to **http://bit.ly/dxa6CM**; the extensions are in the second box from the top in the left-hand column. You can also use the Extensions Gallery found at **http://bit.ly/1UMf53**. You might need to create a Google account first though.



MacFormat
Tab Menu – Chrome Web Store
Lexmark | SmartSolutions | Home
Wikipedia
YouTube – Broadcast Yourself.
Google Maps
Yahoo! UK
CNN.com International – Breaking, World,...
ESPN: The Worldwide Leader In Sports
BBC News – Home
Apple
Forum
Resellers

05 Choose and install

Find an extension you like the look of, and install. Here we've added a button icon that helps you navigate to tabs – useful for when your tabs bar gets crowded. Manage, disable and uninstall extensions by selecting **Extensions** in the **Window** pull-down menu.

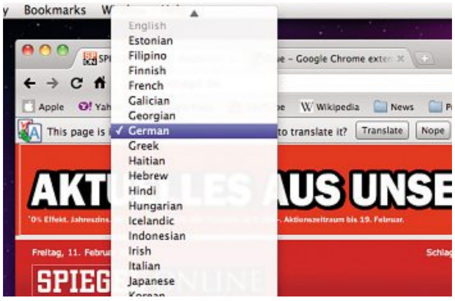


New Tab
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube

You've gone incognito. Pages you view search history, and they won't leave other close the incognito window. Any files you however.

QUICK TIP

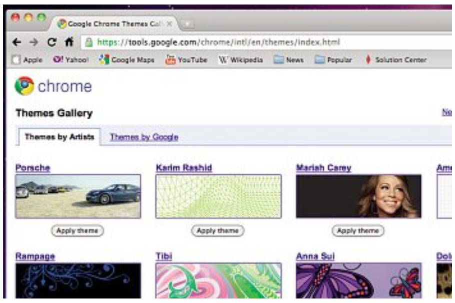
Incognito Mode is similar to *Safari's* **Private Browsing**. Web pages visited and files downloaded aren't recorded in your histories, and new cookies are deleted. Go to the **File** menu or press the spanner icon and select **New Incognito Window**.



Bookmarks
English
Estonian
Filipino
Finnish
French
Galician
Georgian
German
Greek
Haitian
Hebrew
Hindi
Hungarian
Icelandic
Indonesian
Irish
Italian
Japanese
This page is
to translate it?
Translate
Nope

06 In-browser translation

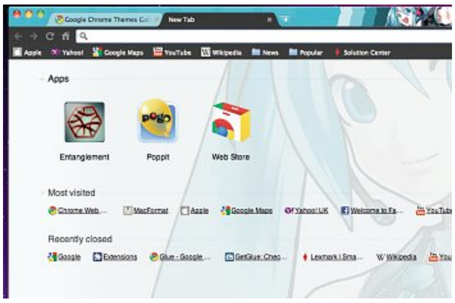
When you access a website in a foreign language, *Chrome* offers to translate it; a dialog bar appears under your bookmarks. *Chrome* attempts to ascertain which language the page is written in. If it's wrong, use the pull-down to correct this, then press **Translate**.



https://tools.google.com/chrome/intl/en/themes/index.html
chrome
Themes Gallery
Themes by Artists
Themes by Google
Porsche
Karim Rashid
Mariah Carey
Apply theme
Rampage
Tibi
Anna Sui

07 Find a Theme

Add a Theme to give your browser a new look and feel. You can access the Chrome Themes gallery at **http://bit.ly/btOvde**, or open **Preferences** and in the **Personal Stuff** tab, click on the **Get Themes** link at the foot of the window. There's a huge range to choose from.



Apps
Entanglement
Poppit
Web Store
Most visited
Recently closed

08 Apply your Theme

Find a theme you like and press **Apply Theme**. You're given the option of keeping it, or removing it straight away. If you keep the theme but want to remove it later, open *Chrome's* **Preferences**, and under the **Personal Stuff** tab, press **Reset to Default Theme**. ●

Get better Mac searches

Use freeware digital butler Alfred to speed up search results on your Mac

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.5+, Alfred 0.8.1+, files and folders to search for

Many moons ago, *MacFormat* got very excited about *Quicksilver*, an app that resembled a super-charged Spotlight, enabling fast access to content on your Mac. Sadly, *Quicksilver* slipped into development hell and new releases stalled. *Quicksilver* soldiers on, but we recently discovered *Alfred*, a new and shiny application in a similar vein, but more streamlined, reminding us of why we first got excited about *Quicksilver*.

In short, *Alfred* powers up search. You can use it to launch applications and documents, or to search various websites, all from a simple, efficient interface. Although local searches can be done using Spotlight, Apple's system can be sluggish in use, and it's also limited and mouse-centric. By contrast, *Alfred* is fast, optimised for keyboard use (although you can still click on results entries, if you wish) and it has a number of useful extras. *Alfred* also tries to learn what you like to launch: the more you use it, the more it figures out which items to associate with which characters, constantly shifting priorities according to your demands.

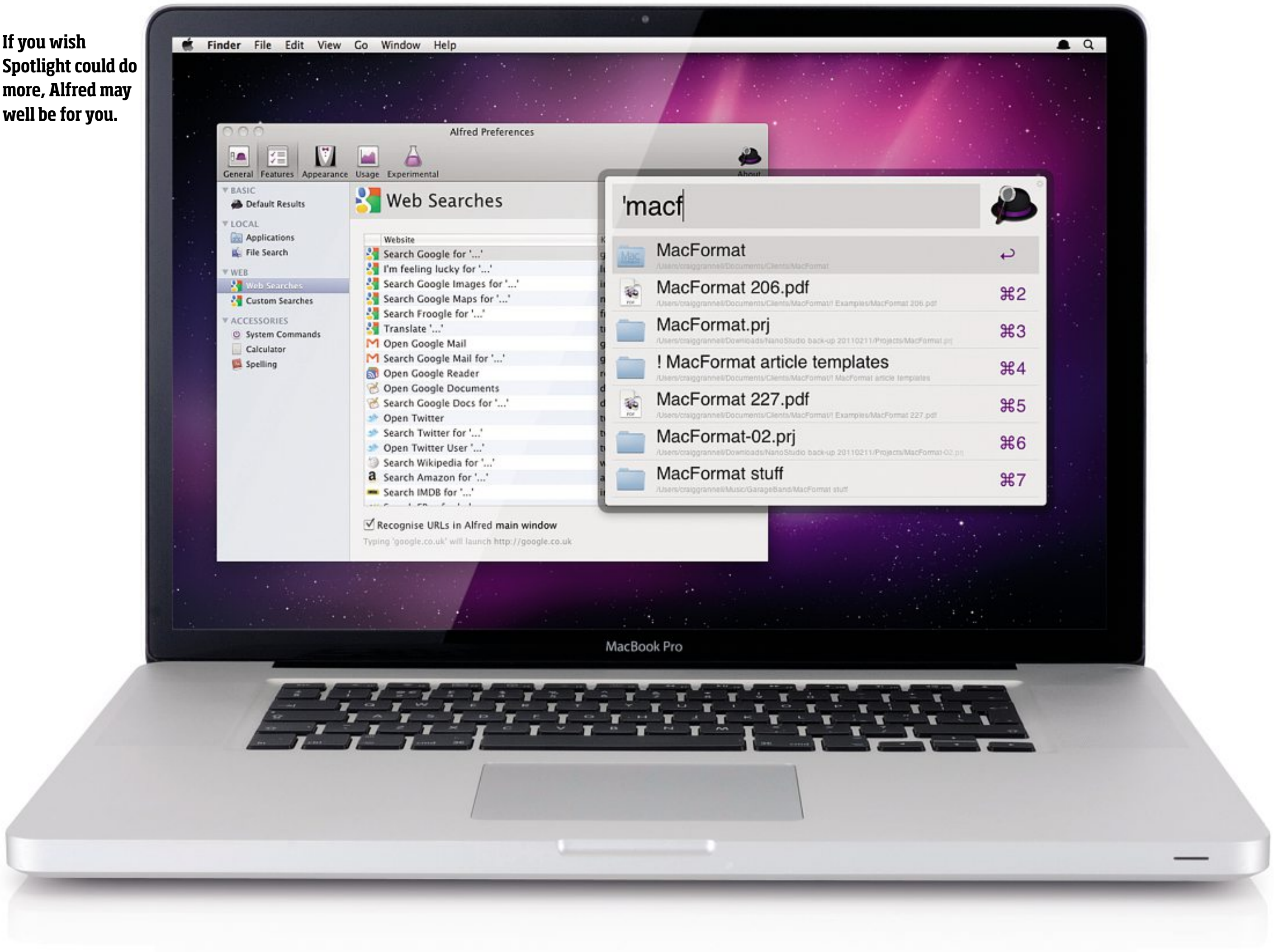
> *"Alfred powers up search. Use it to launch applications and documents, or to search websites"*

For the tutorial, we'll assume that you've already installed *Alfred* (it's a free download from **http://alfredapp.com** or the Mac App Store) and launched it. On launch, *Alfred* will ask if you want to add the application to your login items. Don't do this right away – to later add to it, be sure to check **Launch Alfred at login** in the **Essential** section of the **General preferences**.

If after using *Alfred* you decide it's a 'keeper', you can take it further. For £12, you can grab the Powerpack, which adds a number of extras to the *Alfred* core, including file-system navigation, extra actions to perform on results, *iTunes* control, clipboard and history access, and more.

Craig Grannell

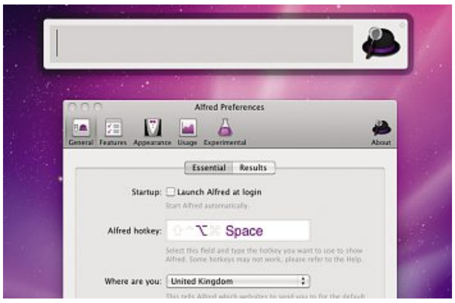
If you wish Spotlight could do more, Alfred may well be for you.


Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Alfred Preferences
General
Features
Appearance
Usage
Experimental
About
BASIC
Default Results
LOCAL
Applications
File Search
WEB
Web Searches
Custom Searches
ACCESSORIES
System Commands
Calculator
Spelling
Web Searches
Website
Search Google for '...'
I'm feeling lucky for '...'
Search Google Images for '...'
Search Google Maps for '...'
Search Froogle for '...'
Translate '...'
Open Google Mail
Search Google Mail for '...'
Open Google Reader
Open Google Documents
Search Google Docs for '...'
Open Twitter
Search Twitter for '...'
Open Twitter User '...'
Search Wikipedia for '...'
Search Amazon for '...'
Search IMDB for '...'
'macf
MacFormat
MacFormat 206.pdf ⌘2
MacFormat.prj ⌘3
! MacFormat article templates ⌘4
MacFormat 227.pdf ⌘5
MacFormat-02.prj ⌘6
MacFormat stuff ⌘7
MacBook Pro

☑ Recognise URLs in Alfred main window

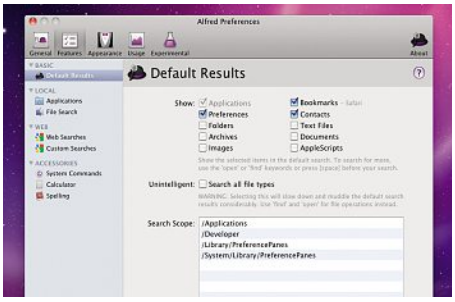
Typing 'google.co.uk' will launch http://google.co.uk

HOW TO / Use Alfred for faster searches


Alfred Preferences
General Features Appearance Usage Experimental About
Essential Results
Startup: ☐ Launch Alfred at login
Alfred hotkey: ⌥ Space
Where are you: United Kingdom

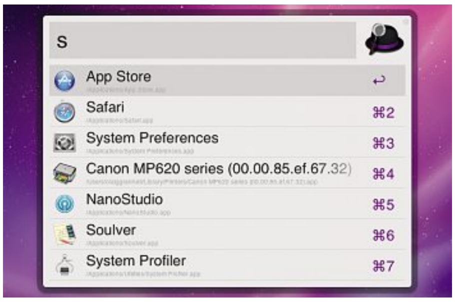
01 Set things up

Click the hat icon in the menu bar and select **Preferences**. Then click **General**. If you want to use a shortcut other than ⌥+[Space] to trigger *Alfred*, click in the field and define your shortcut. Press the shortcut and *Alfred* will appear. Press esc to close it for now.


Alfred Preferences
Default Results
Show: Applications Bookmarks Preferences Contacts Folders Text Files Archives Documents Images AppleScripts
Unintelligent: ☐ Search all file types
Search Scope: /Applications /Developer /Library/PreferencePanes /System/Library/PreferencePanes

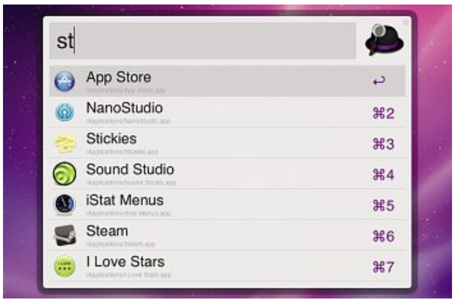
02 Define results

Click **Features** and select **Default Results** from the sidebar. Check item kinds you want to appear in *Alfred*'s results. Next, select **Web Searches** and take a note of the default searches built into *Alfred* – we'll be using those later. When done, close the preferences window.


s
App Store
Safari ⌘2
System Preferences ⌘3
Canon MP620 series (00.00.85.ef.67.32) ⌘4
NanoStudio ⌘5
Soulver ⌘6
System Profiler ⌘7

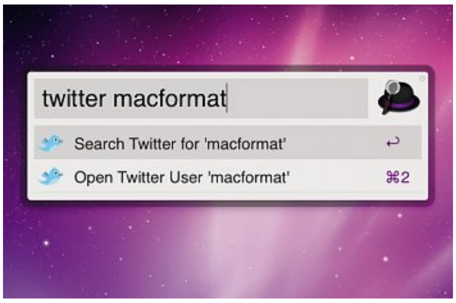
03 Launch an application

Press your *Alfred* keyboard shortcut (⌥+[Space] if you didn't change it) and type S. You'll see a list of applications that have S prominently in their names. Hit ↩ to launch the first entry, or ⌘ and a number to launch one another. Navigate using the cursor keys.


st
App Store
NanoStudio ⌘2
Stickies ⌘3
Sound Studio ⌘4
iStat Menus ⌘5
Steam ⌘6
I Love Stars ⌘7

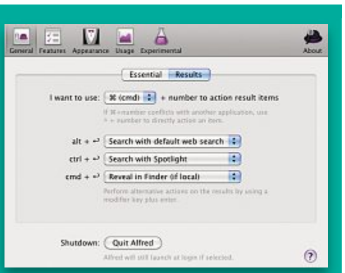
04 Filter the list

Bring up *Alfred* again. This time, type two letters. You'll see that *Alfred*'s results list filters in a manner similar to Spotlight – the more letters you type, the more you can fine-tune results, but you should find you only need to type a few characters to get what you want.


twitter macformat
Search Twitter for 'macformat'
Open Twitter User 'macformat' ⌘2

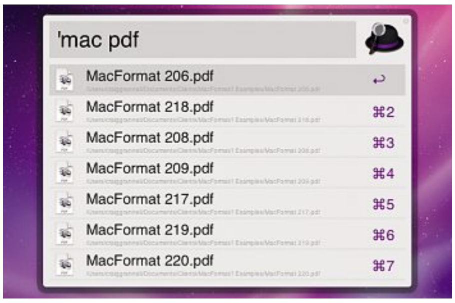
05 Search the web

Remember we said to note the **Web Searches** section in step 2? Type one of the words, add a space, then type your string and hit ↩. For example, use 'maps London' to view London in Google Maps, and 'wiki Apple Inc' to read about Apple on Wikipedia.


General Features Appearance Usage Experimental About
Essential Results
I want to use: ⌘ (cmd) + number to action result items
alt + ↩ Search with default web search
ctrl + ↩ Search with Spotlight
cmd + ↩ Reveal in Finder (if local)
Shutdown: Quit Alfred

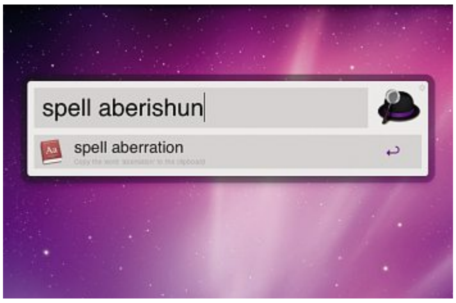
QUICK TIP

To search a term with another system: ⌥+↩ searches using your default browser/search engine, and ctrl+↩ searches with Spotlight. You can also assign 'Reveal in Finder' to ⌥+↩ in the **Results** section of the **General preferences**.


'mac pdf
MacFormat 206.pdf
MacFormat 218.pdf ⌘2
MacFormat 208.pdf ⌘3
MacFormat 209.pdf ⌘4
MacFormat 217.pdf ⌘5
MacFormat 219.pdf ⌘6
MacFormat 220.pdf ⌘7

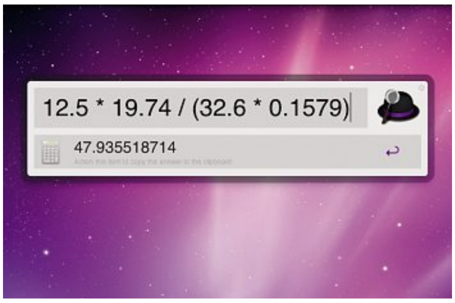
06 Quickly launch files

To rapidly launch files on your Mac, start your search in *Alfred* with a space. You'll see the **Open File** action ready for your input. Note that you can often type just a couple of characters of a file name and an extension – 'm pdf' should bring up a subscriber's *MacFormat* PDF collection.


spell aberishun
spell aberration

07 Check your spelling

You can use 'define' and 'spell' to check a word's meaning and spelling without launching *Dictionary*. Just type one of the commands, followed by a space and a word. *Alfred* will try to figure out what you meant and present relevant and suitable definitions and spellings.


12.5 * 19.74 / (32.6 * 0.1579)
47.935518714

08 Do some sums

In *Alfred*, type '1+1' for an answer. Now try something a little more complicated. When you're done, hit ↩ and your calculation's answer will be sent to the clipboard, ready for pasting into another application – which you can always use *Alfred* to launch! ●

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>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Force-empty Trash

When taking out the rubbish just isn't all that simple

>> PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

When the Trash simply won't empty there are a few tricks you can use to rid yourself of files that won't budge.

My January was spent with the flu. Not the regular 'man flu', but the actual flu. I know it was the actual flu because it was like nothing else I've experienced. Those of you who have had proper flu will be nodding sagely, remembering the miserable experience; while those of you who have had a bad cold, but think you've had the flu? You know nothing. The worst thing about the actual flu was how long it stayed in my system, steadfastly refusing to go. Just when I thought I was getting better the flu came back; it simply would not go away. Whilst I was lolling about in my sickbed I got an email about an ailing Mac that echoed my not being able to shift the flu. Not a Mac with a virus you understand, but one with a file that simply would not be deleted.

What a waste

Those of you who are long-time Mac converts will, no doubt, remember a time when Apple used to have a localised version of the Trash called the Wastebasket. It was especially for those non-American speakers; alas, Apple no longer bothers so we're all stuck with Trash.

I see lots of Macs that have trash cans full of stuff that's been put there and forgotten about. Naturally, all those files, folders and other detritus are still taking up space on your hard drive. I've even known some people who use the Trash as a kind of separate storage space for stuff they might not want again, but aren't sure about. This is very bad practice and will gain a stern look of disdain from many users. So if you want to avoid that, don't keep lots of stuff in your Trash folder.

> *"Some people use the Trash as a kind of separate storage space for stuff they might not want again. This is very bad practice..."*

You should empty the Trash regularly; it was just this that was causing my emailing friend trouble. The Trash was emptying seemingly normally, but there was an old file that simply stayed put no matter how many times he tried to delete it.

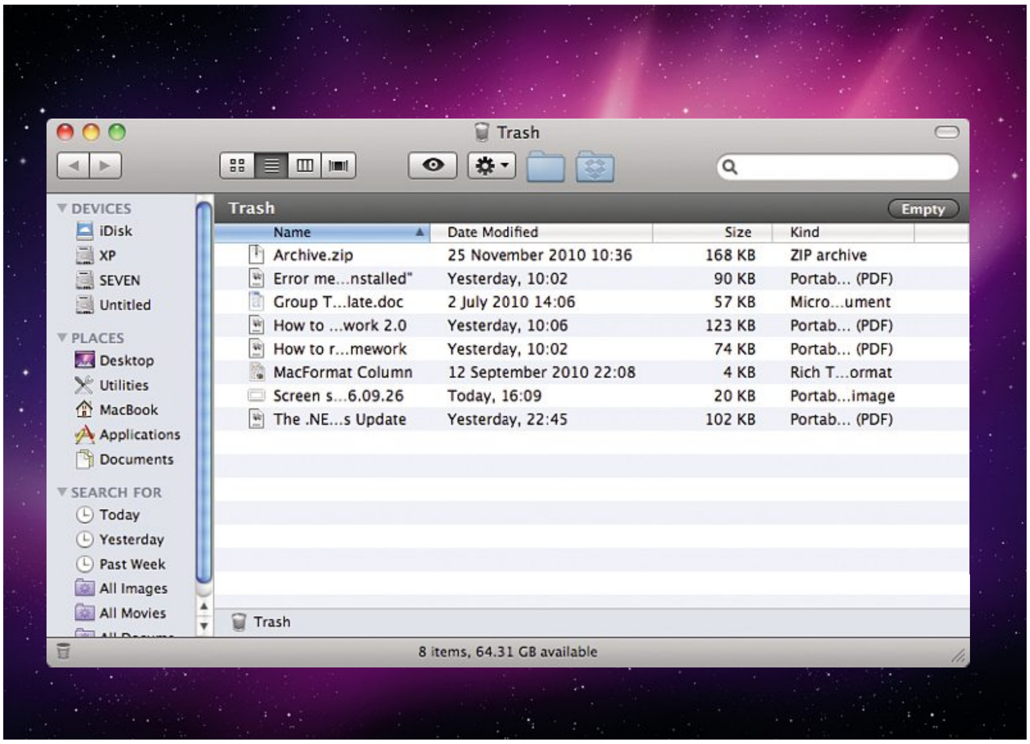
This is one of those little Mac housekeeping things that sometimes happens and in the main it's easy to remedy. Simply go to the desktop and click on *Finder* in the menu bar; now press the ⌥ key on your keyboard. You'll notice that the ⌥ icon now appears right next to the Empty Trash option. Select the Empty Trash option and hopefully your errant undeletable file or files will be no more.

Force-emptying

Happily, this was the remedy for my friend on email, but it's not always that simple. If the file still resides in your Trash despite force-emptying it with the ⌥ key, then you may have to dump and recreate the Trash directory itself.

Open the *Terminal* by going to Applications > Utilities and double-clicking on *Terminal*. When the window appears type sudo rm -rf ~/.Trash and press ↩. When prompted enter your password, press ↩ and close the *Terminal* app. Log out of your account and log back in or restart your Mac and your Trash can should now be empty.

Sadly, there was no such simple solution to my flu episode and I simply had to wait until my body had rid itself of the bad stuff before I could get back to normal. What I wouldn't give for a human keyboard combination to help purge myself of unwanted intruders. ●



Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
Archive.zip	25 November 2010 10:36	168 KB	ZIP archive
Error me...nstalled"	Yesterday, 10:02	90 KB	Portab... (PDF)
Group T...late.doc	2 July 2010 14:06	57 KB	Micro...ument
How to ...work 2.0	Yesterday, 10:06	123 KB	Portab... (PDF)
How to r...mework	Yesterday, 10:02	74 KB	Portab... (PDF)
MacFormat Column	12 September 2010 22:08	4 KB	Rich T...ormat
Screen s...6.09.26	Today, 16:09	20 KB	Portab...image
The .NE...s Update	Yesterday, 22:45	102 KB	Portab... (PDF)

8 items, 64.31 GB available

Batch process photos

Use Mac OS X's Automator to create a custom photo-manipulation workflow

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.6 (most actions should be fine with Mac OS X 10.4+), some photos to use.

We at *MacFormat* feel a little sorry for *Automator*. It sits unloved in the Applications folder, and despite its cute robot icon, we fear the majority of Mac users have never launched the application, let alone experimented with it. This is somewhat borne out when you go online and discover the general dearth of *Automator* interest, aside from a brief flurry of chatter that happened when the technology was introduced, back in Mac OS X 10.4.

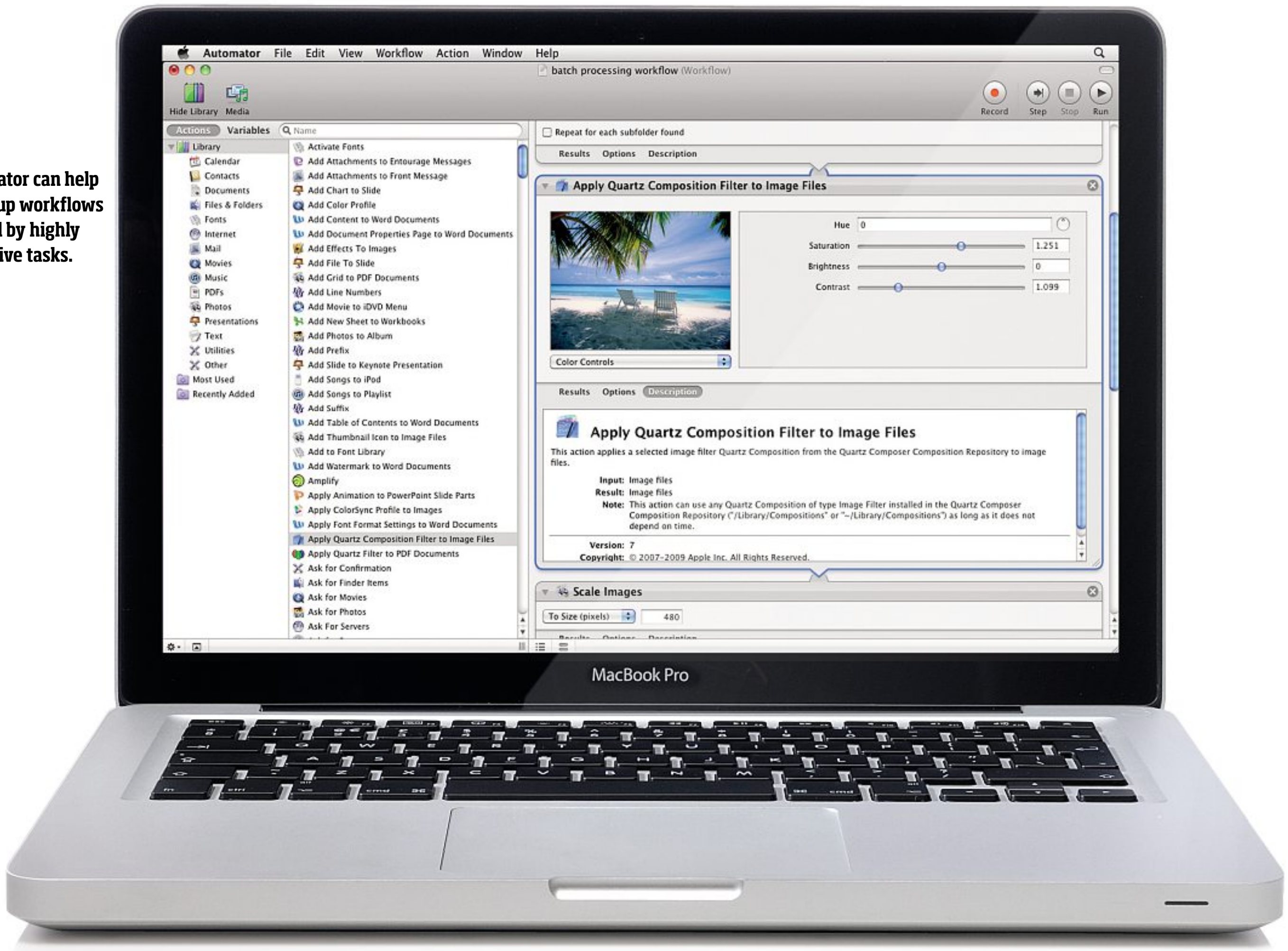
The lack of *Automator* love is a pity, because it's ideal for ably dealing with drudge work. Like its name suggests, *Automator* is primarily designed to enable you to create workflows for automated tasks (which can be saved as standalone apps). In the past, you would have been reliant on AppleScript for this, but *Automator* aims to bring a similar level of workflow-creation to the masses, by providing plenty of power within a smart drag-and-drop interface.

The problem with *Automator* is that, despite its elegance and user-friendliness, users still find it a little impenetrable. This might in part be down to diving right in; instead, you need to map out what you want *Automator* to do. For any workflow, break it down into required actions, placing them in a linear order.

> *"The problem with Automator is that despite its elegance, users still find it a little impenetrable"*

Here we'll show you how to build a workflow for taking images, dropping them into a folder, then resizing and renaming them in a manner suitable for the web. Our assumption is you've already got some images in a folder on your Mac. However, you can also replace Ask for Finder Items in step one with the Ask for Photos action, if you want to take images directly from *iPhoto*. If you do this, you'll get a media browser rather than an Open dialog on running the app built at the end of the tutorial.

Craig Grannell


Automator File Edit View Workflow Action Window Help
batch processing workflow (Workflow)
Hide Library
Media
Record
Step
Stop
Run
Actions
Variables
Name
Library
Calendar
Contacts
Documents
Files & Folders
Fonts
Internet
Mail
Movies
Music
PDFs
Photos
Presentations
Text
Utilities
Other
Most Used
Recently Added
Activate Fonts
Add Attachments to Entourage Messages
Add Attachments to Front Message
Add Chart to Slide
Add Color Profile
Add Content to Word Documents
Add Document Properties Page to Word Documents
Add Effects To Images
Add File To Slide
Add Grid to PDF Documents
Add Line Numbers
Add Movie to iDVD Menu
Add New Sheet to Workbooks
Add Photos to Album
Add Prefix
Add Slide to Keynote Presentation
Add Songs to iPod
Add Songs to Playlist
Add Suffix
Add Table of Contents to Word Documents
Add Thumbnail Icon to Image Files
Add to Font Library
Add Watermark to Word Documents
Amplify
Apply Animation to PowerPoint Slide Parts
Apply ColorSync Profile to Images
Apply Font Format Settings to Word Documents
Apply Quartz Composition Filter to Image Files
Apply Quartz Filter to PDF Documents
Ask for Confirmation
Ask for Finder Items
Ask for Movies
Ask for Photos
Ask For Servers
Results
Options
Description
Apply Quartz Composition Filter to Image Files
Scale Images
MacBook Pro

☐ Repeat for each subfolder found

Color Controls

Hue 0

Saturation 1.251

Brightness 0

Contrast 1.099

Apply Quartz Composition Filter to Image Files

This action applies a selected image filter Quartz Composition from the Quartz Composer Composition Repository to image files.

Input: Image files

Result: Image files

Note: This action can use any Quartz Composition of type Image Filter installed in the Quartz Composer Composition Repository ("/Library/Compositions" or "~/Library/Compositions") as long as it does not depend on time.

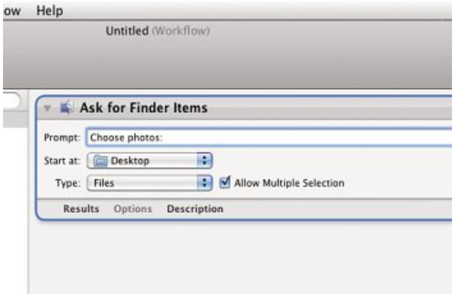
Version: 7

Copyright: © 2007-2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

To Size (pixels) 480

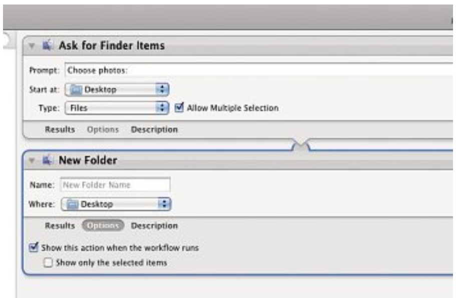
Automator can help speed up workflows dogged by highly repetitive tasks.

>> HOW TO / Create a batch-process workflow for photos


ow Help
Untitled (Workflow)
Ask for Finder Items
Results Options Description
Prompt: Choose photos:
Start at: Desktop
Type: Files
☑ Allow Multiple Selection

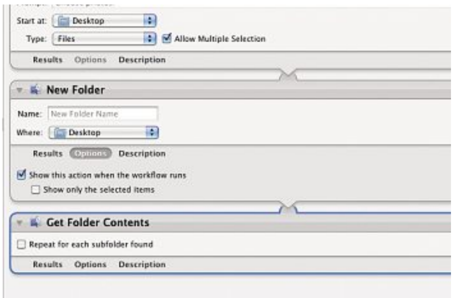
01 Get started

Launch *Automator*, select **Workflow** and click **Choose**. First we need to get some images from a folder. Therefore, select *Finder* from **Library** and drag **Ask for Finder Items** to the workflow pane. Check **Allow Multiple Selection** so more than one image can be chosen.


Ask for Finder Items
Results Options Description
New Folder
Results Options Description
Prompt: Choose photos:
Start at: Desktop
Type: Files
☑ Allow Multiple Selection
Name: New Folder Name
Where: Desktop
☑ Show this action when the workflow runs
☐ Show only the selected items

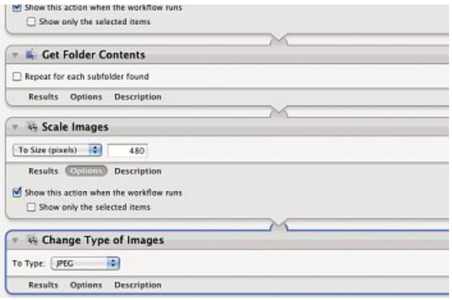
02 Create a folder action

Next we need to place our images in a new folder. Drag across the **New Folder** action and drop it under the previous one. Add a default save location. Click **Options** and check **Show this action when the workflow runs** – so you can change folder names mid-workflow.


Results Options Description
New Folder
Results Options Description
Get Folder Contents
Results Options Description
Start at: Desktop
Type: Files
☑ Allow Multiple Selection
Name: New Folder Name
Where: Desktop
☑ Show this action when the workflow runs
☐ Show only the selected items
☐ Repeat for each subfolder found

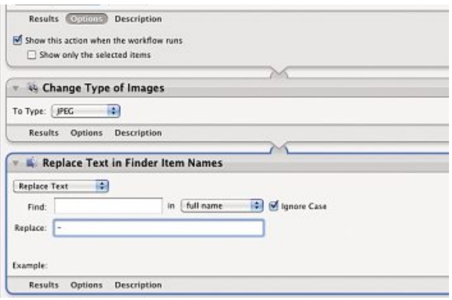
03 Get the folder items

If you were processing images manually, you'd next select the items in the folder, so do the equivalent within *Automator*. Drag across the **Get Folder Contents** action. The next two actions are image-based, so click **Photos** from the **Library** sidebar for various image actions.


Get Folder Contents
Results Options Description
Scale Images
Results Options Description
Change Type of Images
Results Options Description
☑ Show this action when the workflow runs
☐ Show only the selected items
☐ Repeat for each subfolder found
To Size (pixels) 480
☑ Show this action when the workflow runs
☐ Show only the selected items
To Type: JPEG

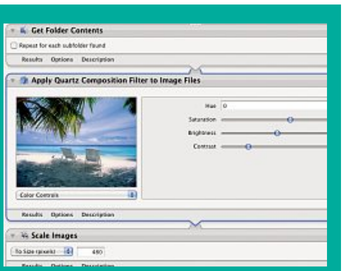
04 Add image actions

Drag across **Scale Images** (select **Don't Add if asked**). Add a default size and again from **Options** use **Show this action when the workflow runs** to change the value on the fly. To save images as JPEGs, drag **Change Type of Images** and set **To Type** to **JPEG**.


Results Options Description
Change Type of Images
Results Options Description
Replace Text in Finder Item Names
Results Options Description
☑ Show this action when the workflow runs
☐ Show only the selected items
To Type: JPEG
Replace Text
Find: in full name ☑ Ignore Case
Replace: -
Example:

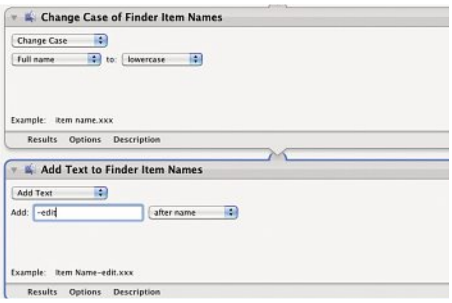
05 Add a rename action

Now to change filenames for web compliance – so no spaces or lowercase allowed. From the **Files & Folders** sidebar group, drag **Rename Finder Items**; if asked about a copy action, click **Don't Add**. Choose **Replace Text**, add a space in **Find** and an '–' in **Replace**.


Get Folder Contents
Apply Quartz Composition Filter to Image Files
Color Controls
Scale Images

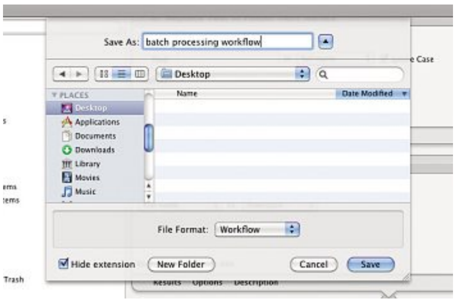
>> QUICK TIP

For more advanced image edits, put the **Render Quartz Composition Filter to Image Files** action before **Scale Images**. This enables you to add a filter, such as **Color Controls**; note that workflows with such actions take longer to complete.


Change Case of Finder Item Names
Results Options Description
Add Text to Finder Item Names
Results Options Description
Change Case
Full name to: lowercase
Example: item name.xxx
Add Text
Add: -edit after name
Example: Item Name-edit.xxx

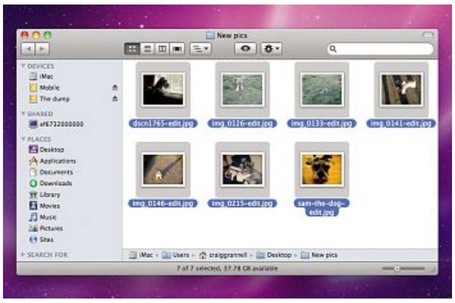
06 Add more rename actions

Add another instance of **Rename Finder Items**. Select **Change Case** from the top-left menu then set **Full name** to **lowercase**. To flag edited images, add another instance, select **Add Text** from the top-left menu, type **-edit** in the **Add** field and select **after name** from the next.


PLACES
Desktop
Applications
Documents
Downloads
Library
Movies
Music
Name
Date Modified
Hide extension
New Folder
Cancel
Save
Save As: batch processing workflow
Desktop
File Format: Workflow
☑ Hide extension

07 Reveal when done

Add **Reveal Finder Items** as the final action, so your folder with reworked images is displayed when the workflow completes. Go to File > Save As and save your workflow with the **File Format** of **Workflow**, so you can later open and edit it in *Automator* if you need to.


New pics
DEVICES
SHARED
PLACES
SEARCH FOR
dscn1765-edit.jpg
img_0126-edit.jpg
img_0133-edit.jpg
img_0141-edit.jpg
img_0148-edit.jpg
img_0215-edit.jpg
sam-the-dog-edit.jpg
7 of 7 selected, 37.78 GB available

08 Create an application

Save your workflow a second time, but use the **File Format** of **Application** and save it to your **Applications** folder. Double-click the app to launch it; select some images, type a folder name, define a pixel size, and end up with a folder of reworked images on your desktop. ●

Customise OS X preferences

Master System Preferences to get your Mac working just the way you want it

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

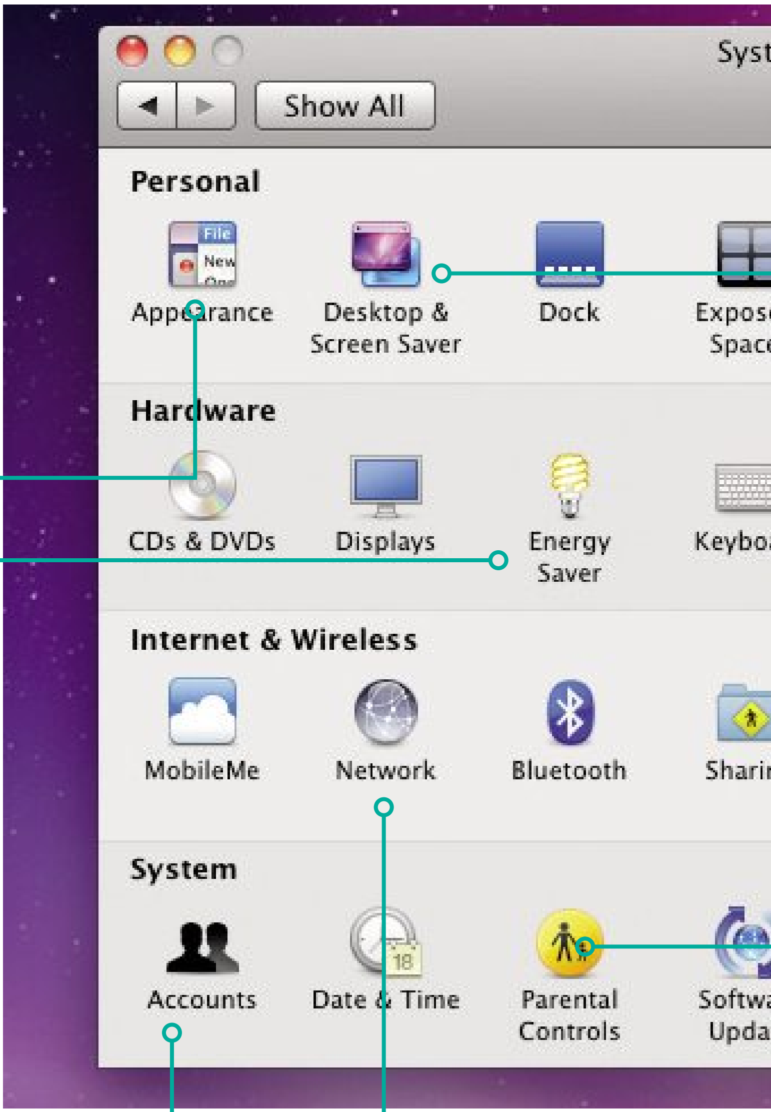
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X

The *System Preferences* window is your Mac's nerve centre. If you want to tweak how something works, chances are you'll pay it a visit. You'll find it in the menu. It's laid out in categories and each icon opens what's known as a pane with the available settings within.

Once you're in a specific pane, clicking Show All at the top will take you back to the main window, or you can use the back and forward buttons, similar to those in *Safari*.

Third-party software entries to *System Preferences* appear in a bar marked Other. Here we cover OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, but many settings apply to earlier versions also.

Laurence Cable



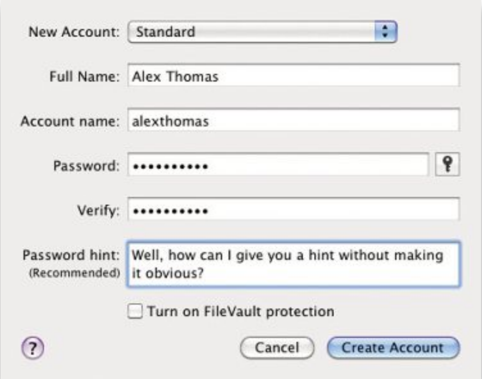
Colours!

To alter the colour that appears when you highlight text, click Appearance and make your choice from the second drop-down menu. If you're not happy with the standard hues, why not choose your own? Simply select the Other... option, which will open up a colour picker wheel for you to explore.

The top drop-down menu in the Appearance pane enables you to switch the standard OS X blue colour to graphite (that's grey, to most of us). This is the colour you see in scroll bars and whenever you click menus.

Stop dozing off

To prevent your Mac going to sleep after a short time, fire up the **Energy Saver** pane. This contains sliders where you can set how long your computer must sit idle before it goes to sleep. If you've got a notebook, set different times depending on whether you're plugged into the mains or running off the battery. The **Energy Saver** pane is also where you can schedule your Mac to start up or shut down at a specified time. Note this is separate from the screen saver, which you alter in **Desktop & Screen Saver**.

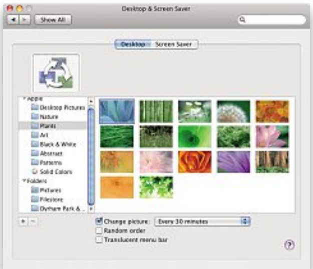

New Account: Standard
Full Name: Alex Thomas
Account name: alexthomas
Password: ••••••••••
Verify: ••••••••••
Password hint: (Recommended) Well, how can I give you a hint without making it obvious?
☐ Turn on FileVault protection

Each to their own

There's nothing to stop you giving everyone who uses your Mac their own account. Doing this means they can set their own desktop background and work in their own environment, without touching or even having access to your carefully honed setup. After setting up multiple accounts your Mac starts up with a login screen, and users can be switched at any time within OS X, without any loss of work. It's best to use a Standard account most of the time and only log in as Administrator when needed. To use Parental Controls on an account, it needs to be set to Managed with Parental Controls.

Computer location

If you use your notebook in more than one location, you may need different settings to get online. The **Network** pane has a useful **Location** drop-down – select **Edit Locations** and click the **+**. Give your settings a name, such as **Home**, and make any setting changes. These are saved to the location when you click **Apply**. Do this for each location you use your Mac.



Changing desktop

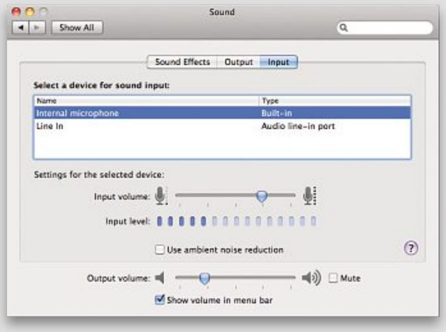
Keeping the same background image on your desktop can be a bit dull, so why not set it to alternate in the **Desktop & Screen Saver** pane. Pick a folder in the left column that has some images in it and tick the **Change picture:** option below. Use the drop-down to decide how often it alters – we suggest you steer clear of the five-second and one-minute options, because the constant swapping would just get distracting – if you really want to look at your photos like this, try a slideshow!

Find what you need

If you're not sure where a particular option resides, try typing the keywords into this search bar. A drop-down will show you the available options, and as you hover your mouse over each one, you'll see the appropriate icon highlighted. Click it to jump right to the correct pane. Note you can also search the *System Preferences* panes via Spotlight. Press [⌘] + [Spacebar] and type your search – the results will appear in the *System Preferences* category.

Lock it down

Even if you're the only person who uses your Mac, it's worth taking a few steps to keep your machine safe. Use the **Security** pane to require a password to wake from screensaver, disable automatic login and set up the FileVault encryption system, if you feel it's required. It may also be worth setting up the OS X firewall. Note that if you do this, you may prevent some apps from working unless you specifically give them access. Manage this by clicking **Advanced…**.



Select a device for sound input:

Name	Type
Internal microphone	Built-in
Line In	Audio line-in port

Settings for the selected device:

Input volume:

Input level:

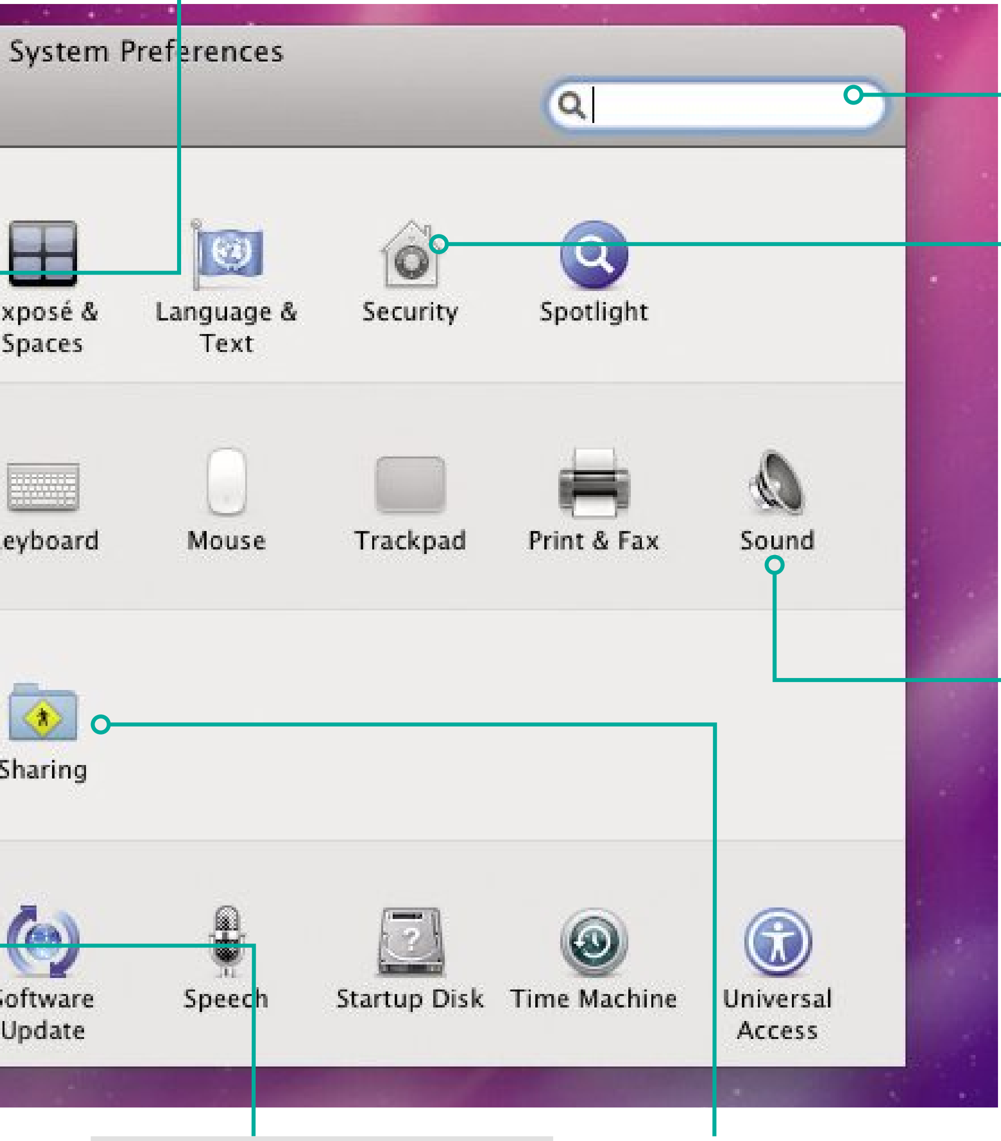
☐ Use ambient noise reduction

Output volume: ☐ Mute

☑ Show volume in menu bar

Sound settings

Most of the time, the volume buttons on your Mac's keyboard are all the audio control you'll need, but the **Sound** pane offers a load more. You can select input and output devices, which you'll need if you use your speakers during the day but want to switch to headphones in the evening. Another useful setting worth noting is the audio input level for your microphone.

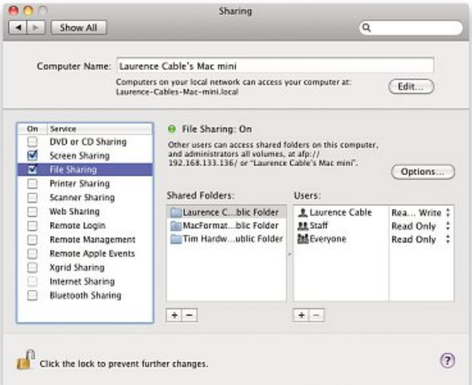


Parental Controls

Want to stop your little ones opening certain apps or visiting unsuitable websites? The **Parental Controls** pane is where you ensure they stay safe. It'll even attempt to block adult content automatically, or you can set a list of sites they can and can't look at. There are numerous other options here too, including limits to how long they can spend on your Mac, preventing them changing their password and hiding profanity in *Dictionary*.

Share and share alike

Sharing things over your home network isn't as scary or difficult to set up as you might think. This pane contains a tick list where you can toggle the various services – such as screen, file and printer sharing – on and off. If you're not sure what a particular option does, simply click its name and you'll see a little explanation appear at the top of the right-hand pane. Below this, you'll see some further specific settings for each option – in many cases, who you would like to give access to.



Computer Name: Laurence Cable's Mac mini

Computers on your local network can access your computer at: Laurence-Cables-Mac-mini.local

On	Service
☐	DVD or CD Sharing
☑	Screen Sharing
☑	File Sharing
☐	Printer Sharing
☐	Scanner Sharing
☐	Web Sharing
☐	Remote Login
☐	Remote Management
☐	Remote Apple Events
☐	Xgrid Sharing
☐	Internet Sharing
☐	Bluetooth Sharing

● File Sharing: On

Other users can access shared folders on this computer, and administrators all volumes, at afp://192.168.133.136/ or "Laurence Cable's Mac mini".

Shared Folders:
- Laurence C...blic Folder
- MacFormat...blic Folder
- Tim Hardw...ublic Folder

Users:	
Laurence Cable	Rea... Write
Staff	Read Only
Everyone	Read Only

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Easily forgotten, Quick Look can save you time previewing files.

Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Thu 15:24 MacFormat
Surfing04.jpg
MacBook

Get more out of Quick Look

View the most popular file types at the touch of your space bar

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.5 or later

>> ON THE DISC
Find some plug-ins on the disc.

One feature of OS X that's easily forgotten about is Quick Look, but if you know it's there, it's incredibly useful and can save you loads of time. Select an item in *Finder* and press [Spacebar] to pop up a fast preview of the file. It's far quicker than opening it, but enables you to see much more detail than you can in the icon thumbnail.

We're going to show you how to do more with Quick Look – both in its most basic form, and by adding some plug-ins that enhance what it'll do. Plug-ins are useful because while Quick Look will display previews of most common file types, there are a few that it won't.

But before we look at plug-ins, let's explore some of Quick Look's more advanced features. Start by finding a folder of photos and press ⌘+A to select them all. Press [Spacebar] to pop up the Quick Look view. Note the controls at the bottom – because you've got multiple files selected, these enable you to browse through them all. For the keyboard junkies out there, use the ◀ and ▶ keys to flip between them (but keep off ▲ and ▼, since these will change which files you've got selected). To the right of the controls you'll see four squares – this is the Index Sheet, which displays all the files you've selected at once. Click it, or press ⌘+↩ to jump to it, use the arrow keys to move around and press ↩ to see a bigger preview of the selected image.

> *"We'll show you how to do more with Quick Look – both in its most basic form, and by adding some plug-ins"*

Quick Look also incorporates a slideshow feature. You can either click the play button below the image preview, which will display each image in the Quick Look popup, or view it fullscreen by clicking the double arrow button to the right. It's also possible to jump straight into a slideshow by pressing ⌥+[Space] when you've selected the files in a *Finder* window.

Laurence Cable

HOW TO / Use Quick Look across OS X

Quick Look isn't limited to *Finder* – you can use it in several other Apple apps too. In *Mail*, for instance, it's a useful way of previewing attachments before you bother to open or save them. This way, if you think something looks suspicious in any way, you can get a better idea of what it is.

The Quick Look button appears to the right of email attachments, just below the address and subject information at the top of a message. When you click it, you'll see the familiar popup appear. If there are multiple attachments, you'll be able to browse them in the same way that we did on the opposite page. If someone has sent you photos this way, you can ping them straight over to *iPhoto*, too.

Quick Look doesn't just work in the present – when you're looking for a file in your *Time Machine* backups, you can use the same quick preview to check the contents of something before you restore it to the present.

And we realise we mention quite a few keyboard shortcuts on the opposite page, so here's a little cheat sheet for you to keep by your Mac while you learn them all! We've even thrown in a few extras for you to try. We think you'll be genuinely surprised at how useful they are in your day-to-day Mac use.

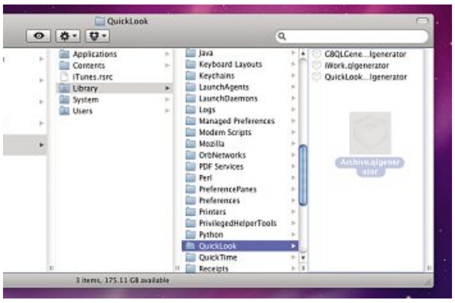
In Finder

[Space] Quick Look
⌥ + [Space] Jump straight to slideshow mode

In Quick Look

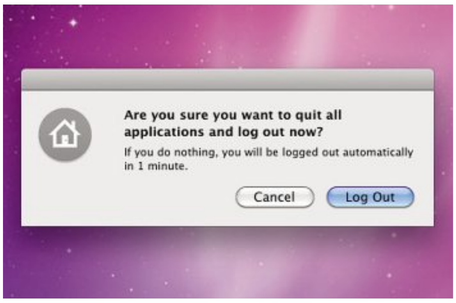
▲ and ▼ Move through files in a folder
◀ and ▶ Browse through multiple selected files in Finder
[Space] Close Quick Look
⌘ + ↩ Switch between individual view mode and grid view mode.
⌥ Hold and click or scroll to zoom in on a previewed image
⌥ + ⇧ Hold and click or scroll to zoom out

HOW TO / Get to grips with Quick Look plug-ins


QuickLook
Applications
Contents
iTunes.rsrc
Library
System
Users
Java
Keyboard Layouts
Keychains
LaunchAgents
LaunchDaemons
Logs
Managed Preferences
Modem Scripts
Mozilla
OrbNetworks
PDF Services
Perl
PreferencePanes
Preferences
Printers
PrivilegedHelperTools
Python
QuickLook
QuickTime
Receipts
CBQLGene...lgenerator
iWork.qlgenerator
QuickLook...lgenerator
Archive.qlgenerator
3 items, 175.11 GB available

01 Download and unpack

Once you've found the plug-in, download and unzip the archive if your Mac doesn't do this automatically. We're after the one that ends **.qlgenerator**. Open a new *Finder* window and go to **Macintosh HD/Library/QuickLook**. Drag the **.qlgenerator** file in here.



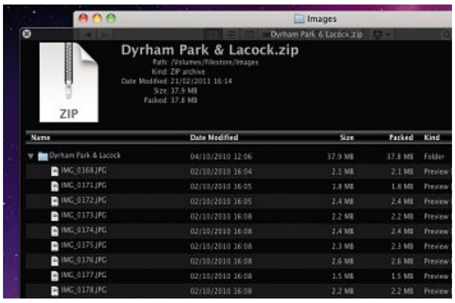
Are you sure you want to quit all applications and log out now?

If you do nothing, you will be logged out automatically in 1 minute.

Cancel
Log Out

02 Activate the plug-in

You'll need to relaunch *Finder* to get it to recognise the new plug-in. You could restart your Mac, or simply log out and log back in. Do this by pressing ⌘+⇧+Q, or by selecting **Log Out** from the menu. Log back in and select a file of the specified type, then press [Space].


Images
Dyrham Park & Lacock.zip
ZIP

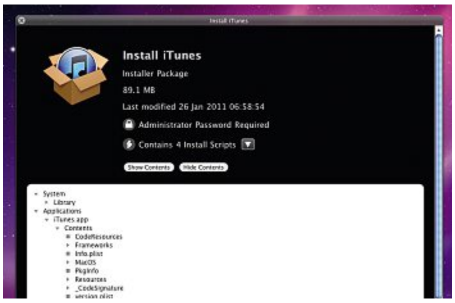
Dyrham Park & Lacock.zip
Path: /Volumes/Filestore/Images
Kind: ZIP archive
Date Modified: 21/02/2011 16:14
Size: 37.9 MB
Packed: 37.8 MB

Name	Date Modified	Size	Packed	Kind
Dyrham Park & Lacock	04/10/2010 12:06	37.9 MB	37.8 MB	Folder
IMG_0168.JPG	02/10/2010 16:04	2.1 MB	2.1 MB	Preview
IMG_0171.JPG	02/10/2010 16:05	1.8 MB	1.8 MB	Preview
IMG_0172.JPG	02/10/2010 16:05	2.4 MB	2.4 MB	Preview
IMG_0173.JPG	02/10/2010 16:08	2.2 MB	2.2 MB	Preview
IMG_0174.JPG	02/10/2010 16:08	2.4 MB	2.4 MB	Preview
IMG_0175.JPG	02/10/2010 16:08	2.3 MB	2.3 MB	Preview
IMG_0176.JPG	02/10/2010 16:08	2.6 MB	2.6 MB	Preview
IMG_0177.JPG	02/10/2010 16:08	1.5 MB	1.5 MB	Preview
IMG_0178.JPG	02/10/2010 16:08	2.2 MB	2.2 MB	Preview

03 ZIP and other archives

http://bit.ly/betterzip

Archives do two things – save space and group things together – both of which are useful in this web-centric era. To check there's nothing nasty lurking in an archive, this plug-in enables Quick Look to list the contents for browsing.

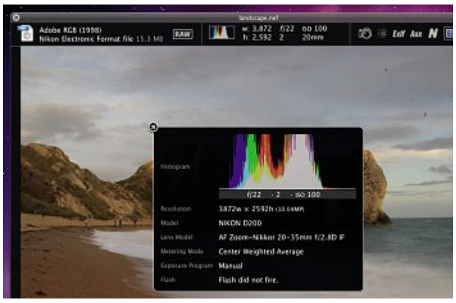

Install iTunes
Show Contents
Hide Contents
System
Library
Applications
iTunes.app
Contents
CodeResources
Frameworks
Info.plist
MacOS
PkgInfo
Resources
_CodeSignature
version.plist

Install iTunes
Installer Package
89.1 MB
Last modified 26 Jan 2011 06:58:54
Administrator Password Required
Contains 4 Install Scripts

04 Suspicious package

http://bit.ly/suspiciouspackage

A lot of apps you download come packaged as PKG files – those icons with the brown boxes, to you and me. This plug-in enables you to check what's inside. It'll also tell you if you need an administrator password or if you have to restart.


landscape.nef
RAW
Histogram
f/22 · 2 · ISO 100

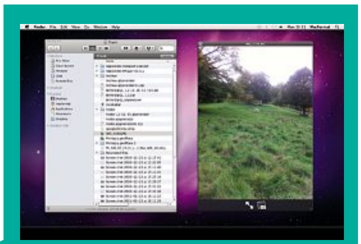
Adobe RGB (1998)
Nikon Electronic Format file 15.3 MB
w: 3,872 f/22 ISO 100
h: 2,592 2 20mm

Resolution	3872w × 2592h (10.04MP)
Model	NIKON D200
Lens Model	AF Zoom-Nikkor 20-35mm f/2.8D IF
Metering Mode	Center Weighted Average
Exposure Program	Manual
Flash	Flash did not fire.

05 Photograph details

http://bit.ly/sneakpeekphoto

If you're into your photography, SneakPeek Photo puts an image's vital stats in Quick Look. See the histrogram, dimensions, camera and lens models, flash mode, metering and more. It costs $10 (about £6), but is free for 15 days. ●



QUICK TIP

To open files in your Trash, you have to drag them out first, which can be a pain. A much better way to check what something is before you empty the Trash is to use Quick Look, which will display previews of those files you've marked for deletion. Another time-saver!

Words: Gary Marshall
Illustration: Andy McLaughlin

TOP SECRET

PATENT PENDING

Apple has been filing patents for all kinds of new technologies. What would happen if it built the most interesting ones? We find out…

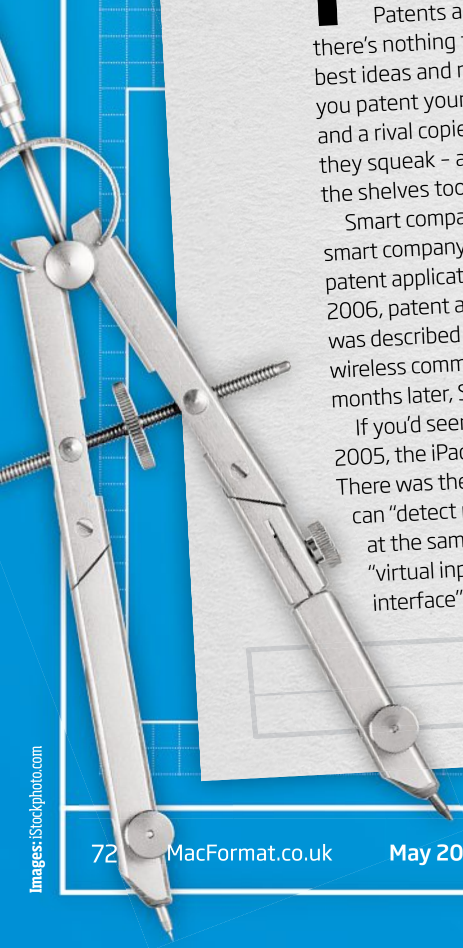
For anybody who wants to know what a company is thinking, just look at its patent portfolio. Patents are about protection: without them there's nothing to stop your rivals from copying your best ideas and making money from your hard work. If you patent your revolutionary unicorn-powered laptop and a rival copies you, you'll be able to sue them until they squeak – and possibly get their product pulled from the shelves too.

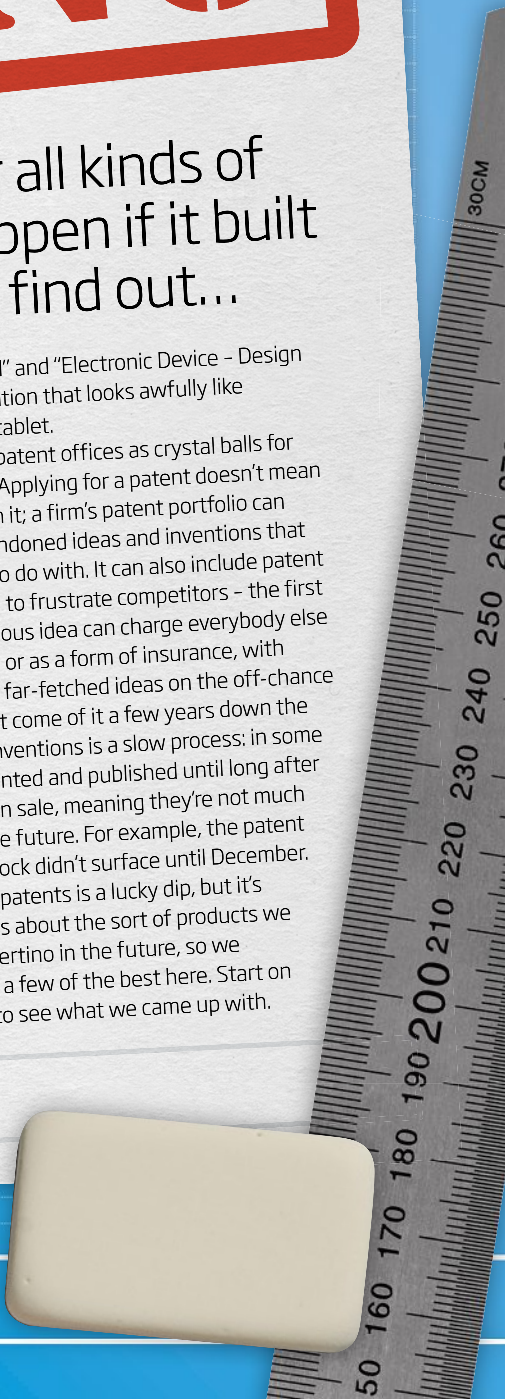
Smart companies patent everything, and Apple is a smart company – so a trawl through Apple's worldwide patent applications can uncover future products. Back in 2006, patent application 20,060,268,528 showed what was described as a "portable computing device capable of wireless communications... [that] is a media player". A few months later, Steve Jobs unveiled it: the iPhone.

If you'd seen the patents Apple was filing in 2004 and 2005, the iPad wouldn't have been a big surprise either. There was the patent application for a touchscreen that can "detect multiple touches or near touches that occur at the same time and at distinct locations"; one for "virtual input device placement on a touchscreen user interface"; one for "activating virtual keys of a touch-screen virtual keyboard" and "Electronic Device – Design Patent", a 2005 application that looks awfully like everybody's favourite tablet.

So can you use the patent offices as crystal balls for Apple kit? Yes and no. Applying for a patent doesn't mean you'll do anything with it; a firm's patent portfolio can include tangents, abandoned ideas and inventions that nobody knows what to do with. It can also include patent applications designed to frustrate competitors – the first firm to patent an obvious idea can charge everybody else who wants to use it – or as a form of insurance, with companies patenting far-fetched ideas on the off-chance that something might come of it a few years down the line. And patenting inventions is a slow process: in some cases they aren't granted and published until long after the invention goes on sale, meaning they're not much use for predicting the future. For example, the patent for last year's iPad Dock didn't surface until December.

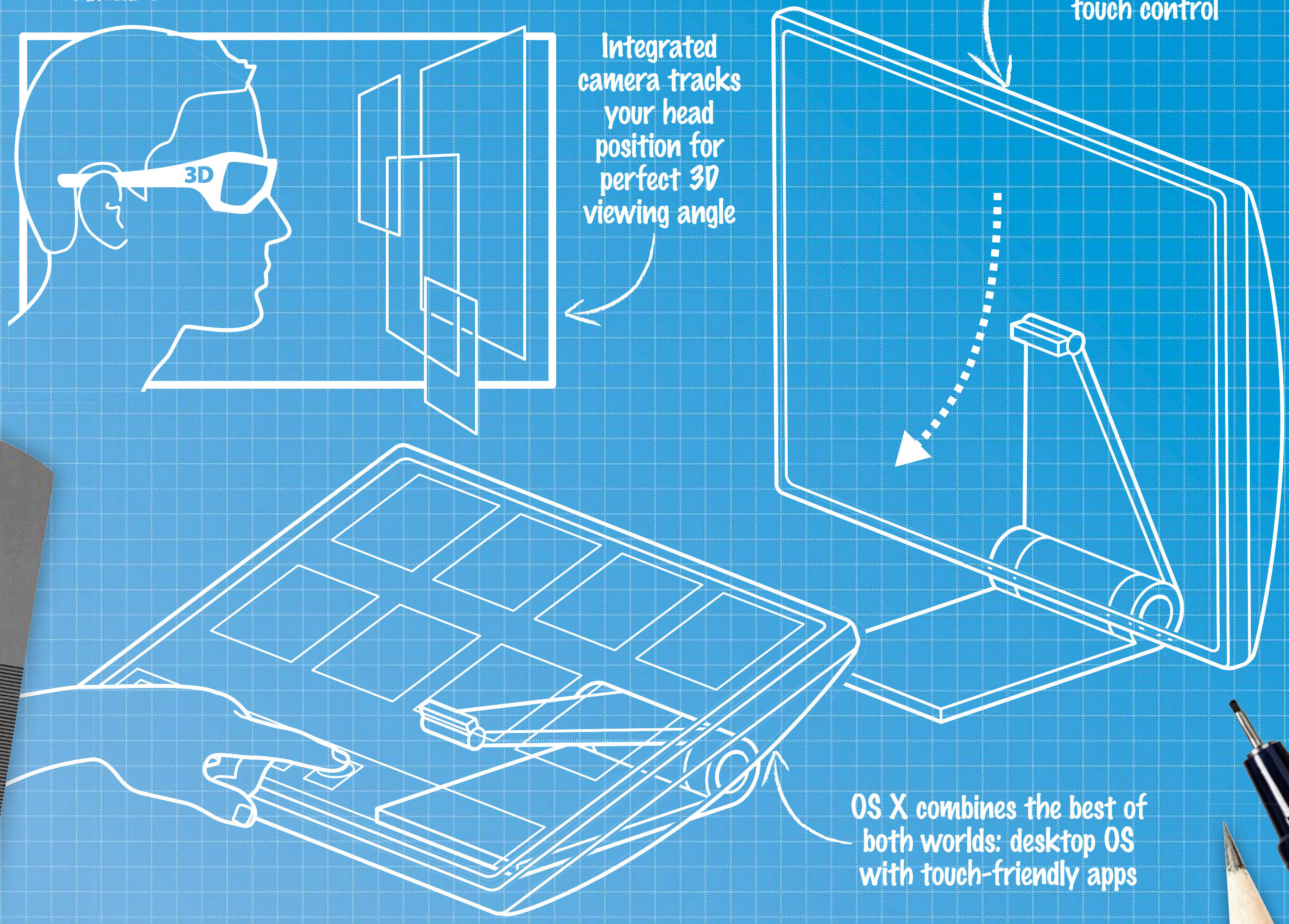
Browsing Apple's patents is a lucky dip, but it's given us lots of ideas about the sort of products we might see from Cupertino in the future, so we thought we'd share a few of the best here. Start on the opposite page to see what we came up with.





Images: iStockphoto.com

The iMac touch



Integrated camera tracks your head position for perfect 3D viewing angle

Stand enables iMac to fold down for more comfortable touch control

OS X combines the best of both worlds: desktop OS with touch-friendly apps

Description

Imagine owning an iMac with a glasses-free 3D display, which turns into a multi-touch iOS device with a single push.

What is it?

It's an iMac with three key improvements: an iPad-style multi-touch screen, a hinged base that enables you to lay the screen flat on your desk or have it vertical like a traditional display, and a rippled, 3D-capable display that uses head tracking to adjust the on-screen 3D effect so it remains pin-sharp. When it's upright the iMac is a desktop Mac; fold it down and you can use it like an iPad.

Patents used

Transitioning Between Modes of Input, WIPO WO/2010/006210, July 2009

Three-dimensional Display System, USPTO 7,843,449, November 2010

Multi-dimensional Desktop, USPTO application 20080307360, December 2008.

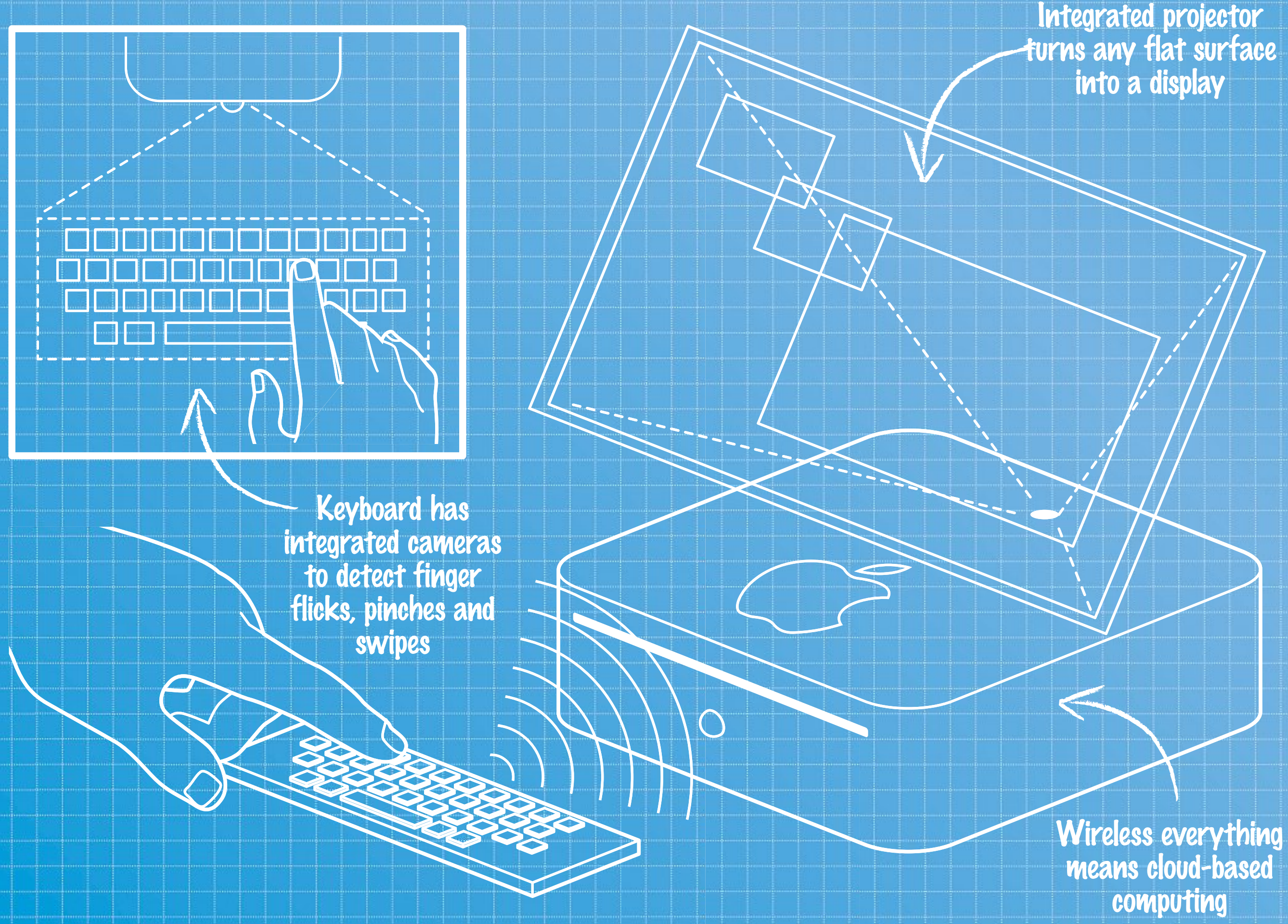
Why we're excited

There's a fundamental problem with having touchscreen on a desktop computer – that is it gives you very sore arms. Prodding away at a vertical screen might be fine for cash machines, information kiosks and other devices you'll only use for short periods, but for serious applications it simply isn't comfortable or accurate enough. And that's why touchscreen PCs have never taken off.

By bringing the screen to a comfortable working height, however, the iMac touch would solve that problem. We already know that OS X Lion is bringing the best of iOS to OS X; so why not bring the best bits of the iPad to the iMac too?

As for 3D, we're not convinced that 3D can become mass-market when it needs ridiculous specs, but glasses-free 3D in a family-friendly machine is a different proposition altogether. The 3D display patent describes using a projector rather than a normal computer screen, but it's one of several 3D patents that include 3D OS interfaces, so Apple's clearly thinking about 3D Macs. If anyone can make desktop 3D attractive, it's definitely Apple.

A mightier Mac mini


Integrated projector turns any flat surface into a display
Keyboard has integrated cameras to detect finger flicks, pinches and swipes
Wireless everything means cloud-based computing

Description
This would be a completely wireless computer where even the power might be delivered by wireless induction rather than via a traditional cable.

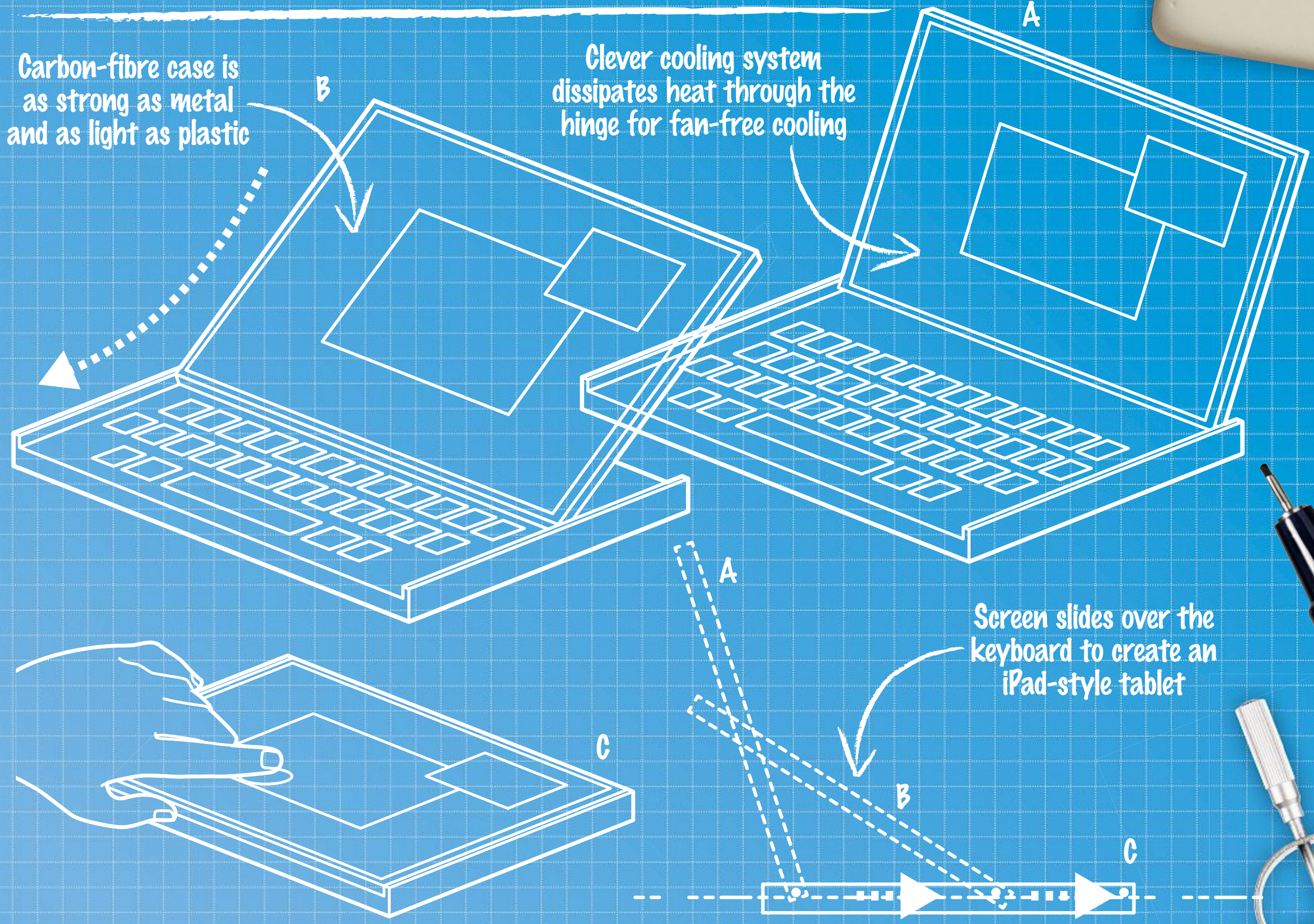
What is it?
Apple's Computer Systems patent "may provide an entirely new and revolutionary category of computer systems", that is a "desk-free computer". This would use a projector rather than a traditional display. And then you can factor in a wireless keyboard, which also works as a multi-touch input device, with tiny cameras monitoring your fingers to see whether you're typing, pinching or zooming. Put all of that together and you've got something really quite interesting…

Patents used
Computer Systems and Methods with Projected Display, USPTO application 20100079468, September 2008.
Image Processing for Camera Based Motion Tracking, USPTO application 20110006991, January 2011.

Why we're excited
Imagine a hybrid between the Apple TV and the Mac mini – a cloud-based hybrid that takes the Apple TV's minimalism a step further by banishing every single cable, including the one to your monitor or TV. Apple imagines an ingenious device whose primary display comes via a projector, enabling you to stick it wherever suits: on a shelf, behind the sofa, on the ceiling… everything would be wireless, with the possible exception of the power cable – although power might even ultimately be delivered wirelessly using induction charging. The Apple TV already receives its content wirelessly, so it isn't much of a stretch to imagine a future Mac accessing cloud-based software too. Remember the enormous data centre Apple's been building?

Of course, you wouldn't want to control an entire computer with your Apple Remote. However, you might be able to use your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad in the same way you can use them with an Apple TV. Alternatively, we've come up with a very different kind of keyboard: Tiny cameras track your finger movements and can tell if you're typing or making iPad-style gestures.

The MacBook touch


Carbon-fibre case is as strong as metal and as light as plastic
B
Clever cooling system dissipates heat through the hinge for fan-free cooling
A
A
Screen slides over the keyboard to create an iPad-style tablet
C
B
C

Description

Imagine a MacBook Air that becomes an iPad when you slide the display flat. Sounds great, doesn't it?

What is it?

A convertible MacBook with an integrated multi-band 3G/4G radio, carbon-fibre reinforced housing and a cooling system where the laptop's lid cools the processor. And it folds to become an iPad.

Patents used

Application Programming Interfaces for Scrolling Operations, USPTO application 20100325575, January 2007.
Reinforced Device Housing, USPTO application 20100289390, May 2009.
Methods and Apparatus for Cooling Electronic Devices Using Thermoelectric Cooling Components, USPTO application 20100050658, March 2010.
Methods and Apparatus for Cooling Electronic Devices Using Thermally Conductive Hinge Assemblies, USPTO application 20100053885, March 2010.
Antennas for Wireless Electronic Devices, USPTO 7,804,453, September 2010.
Dielectric Window Antennas for Electronic Devices, USPTO application 20100321526, June 2009.

Why we're excited

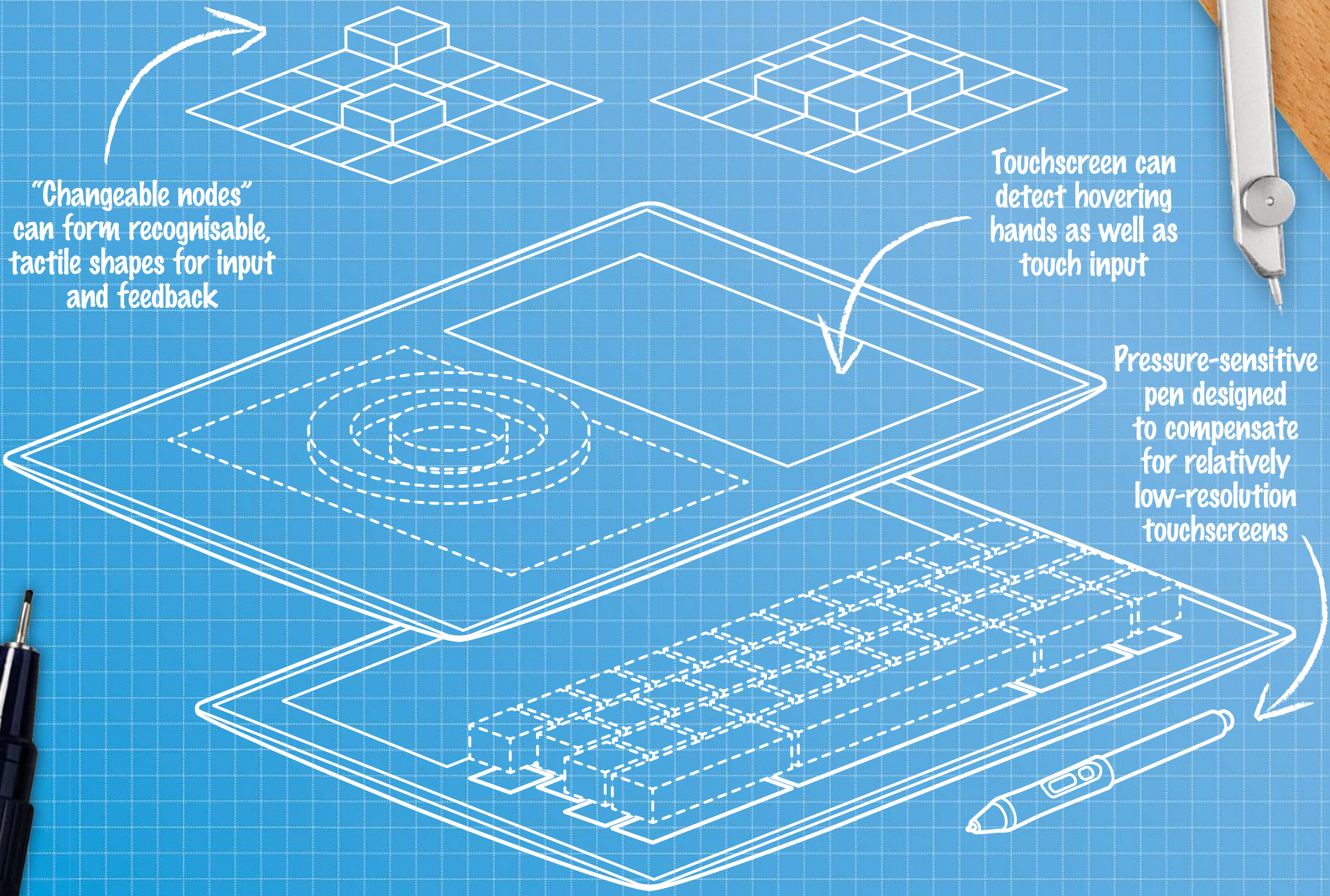
Apple's scrolling patent application includes diagrams of "a laptop device with a keyboard… the laptop device can be converted into a tablet" by sliding the display frame – the touchscreen bit – over the keyboard. Forget the arm-breaking Tablet PCs of the last decade and think MacBook Air. In fact, think of a carbon-fibre MacBook Air: carbon fibre is as tough as metal and as light as plastic, but prone to cracking. Apple's patent application appears to have the solution: using multiple layers or a carbon-fibre frame so that the fibres don't all run in the same direction. Other patents detail integrated 3G/4G radios in MacBook-style devices, possibly using the Apple logo as the antenna.

Cooling systems might not be as glamorous, but they're important – which is why Apple's filed plenty of patents for cooling systems such as liquid-cooled laptops. One of the most interesting ones uses the Peltier Effect, which can cool metal by passing an electric current through two different metals. Apple has also patented fan-free laptop cooling that dissipates heat through the laptop's hinge.

»

30CM
210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300

The iPad Air


"Changeable nodes" can form recognisable, tactile shapes for input and feedback
Touchscreen can detect hovering hands as well as touch input
Pressure-sensitive pen designed to compensate for relatively low-resolution touchscreens

Description

A lightweight, carbon fibre-encased iPad with a shape-shifting screen that can handle not just touch but waves and pen input too.

What is it?

An iPad whose display can "grow" real keys and whose touch sensors can interpret 3D gestures as well as 2D ones. The combination of haptic feedback and hover sensing could make Apple's tablet even more magical, and artists might like a pressure-sensitive pen that can overcome the limitations of low-res touch screens. It might even have an integrated stand.

Patents used

Detecting and Interpreting Real-World and Security Gestures on Touch and Hover Sensitive Devices, USPTO 7,877,707, January 2011. Stylus Adapted For Low Resolution Touch Sensor Panels, USPTO application 20100006350, January 2010. User Interface Having Changeable Topography, USPTO application 20100162109, June 2010. Reinforced Device Housing, USPTO application 20100289390, May 2009.

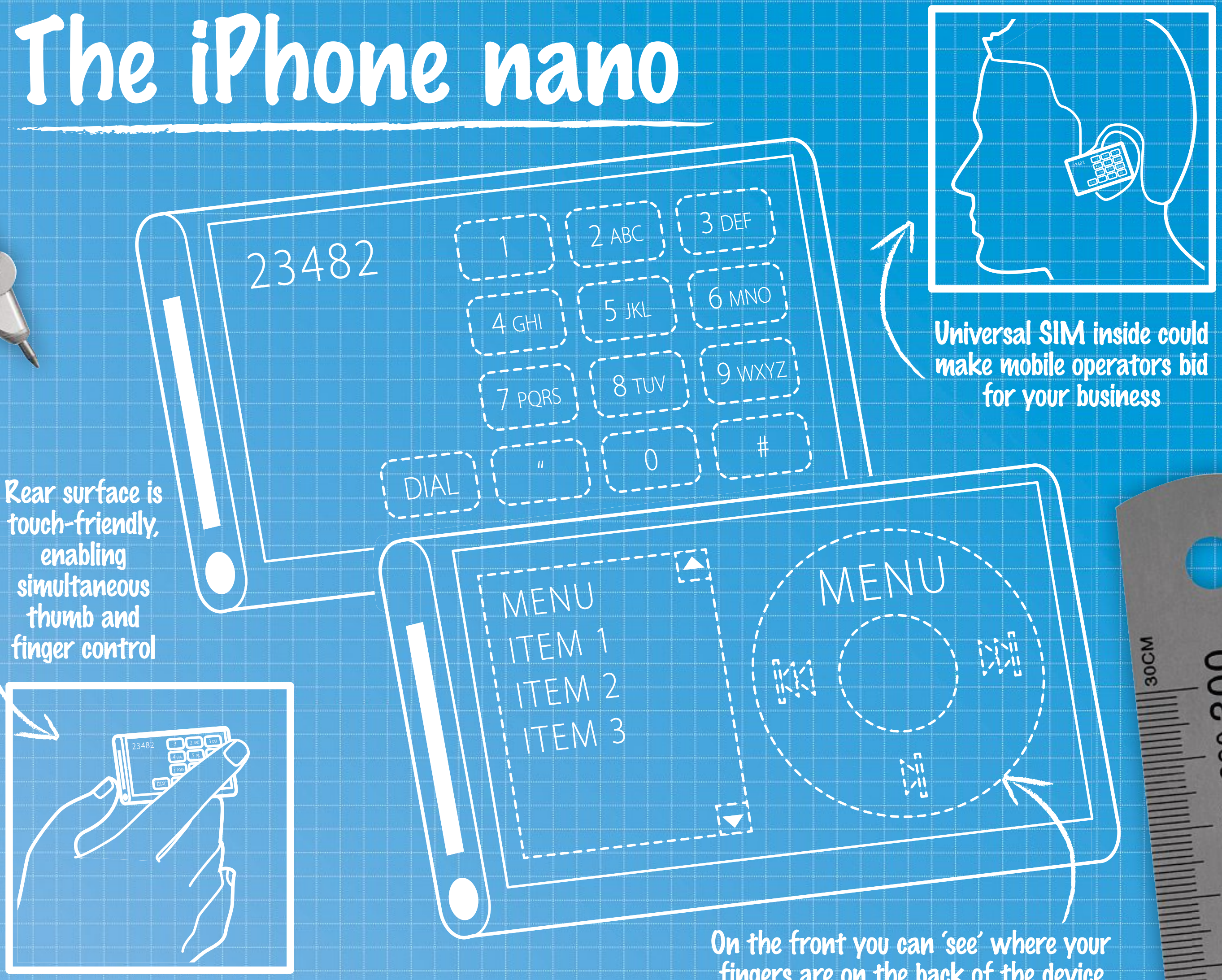
Why we're excited

We like the iPad a lot, but, as we've all since discovered, its glossy glass screen isn't the best surface for touch-typing or gaming. However, the "changeable topography" patent application has a possible solution. It presents a screen or trackpad that can "grow" buttons or other interface elements as required. It couldn't be made of glass though – as it's too solid – but would consist of "changeable nodes" that can form recognisable, tactile shapes. Such nodes might be controlled by tiny motors, or they might be made of a substance that expands or contracts when stimulated by an electrical, magnetic or chemical actuator.

That's not Apple's only interface idea. Building on the concept of multi-touch, its plans for "Touch and Hover Sensitive Devices" could interpret gestures such as a tap-and-hover, a "hitchhiking gesture" or even a thumbs-up.

And the pen? Steve Jobs may have mocked stylus-based tablets in the past, but that doesn't mean Apple won't introduce an artist-friendly pen input to the iPad. A pressure-sensitive stylus would be a boon in imaging apps.

The iPhone nano



Universal SIM inside could make mobile operators bid for your business

Rear surface is touch-friendly, enabling simultaneous thumb and finger control

On the front you can 'see' where your fingers are on the back of the device

Description

An incredibly small, cheap iPhone – think iPod nano with phone features – that jumps between networks and doubles as an electronic wallet.

What is it?

A super-small iPhone that supplements the familiar touchscreen with a second touch-sensitive panel on the back, enabling you to control the device with fingers and thumbs simultaneously. When you're using the rear screen, you'll "see" your fingers on the front screen: it's not transparent, though, it's just a clever idea for a cursor. The phone includes a Universal SIM that uses the best available network provider, which could change throughout the day according to where you are.

Patents used

Back-Side Interface for Hand-Held Devices, USPTO application 20070103454, May 2007. Handheld Computing Device, USPTO 7,724,532, May 2010. Dynamic Carrier Selection, USPTO 7,885,654, February 2011. Motion Based Input Selection, USPTO application 20100042954, November 2009.

Why we're excited

Imagine an iPhone that's the size of the current iPod nano. It probably wouldn't provide the full iOS apps experience – the iPod nano doesn't either – but it'd be capable of sending texts, checking email, playing media and all the usual smartphone stuff. If you combine the iPhone's touchscreen with the touch-sensitive rear described in Apple's 2007 patent, you've found the solution to making the iPhone smaller yet easy to use. Similar technology is in the forthcoming PlayStation Portable replacement, Sony's NGP.

The Universal SIM could be bad news for mobile operators, as it suggests Apple is thinking of becoming an MVNO, a Mobile Virtual Network Operator. According to the patent, the phone would send a request for data to "a mobile virtual network operator server", which might ask networks to bid for your business.

Apple also fancies turning your iPhone into an electronic wallet – but it has bigger ambitions too. Its Motion Based Input Selection patent application describes NFC-enabled phones acting as electronic tickets and even security passes. ●

Q&A

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to withering wireless, Luis Villazon can help.

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

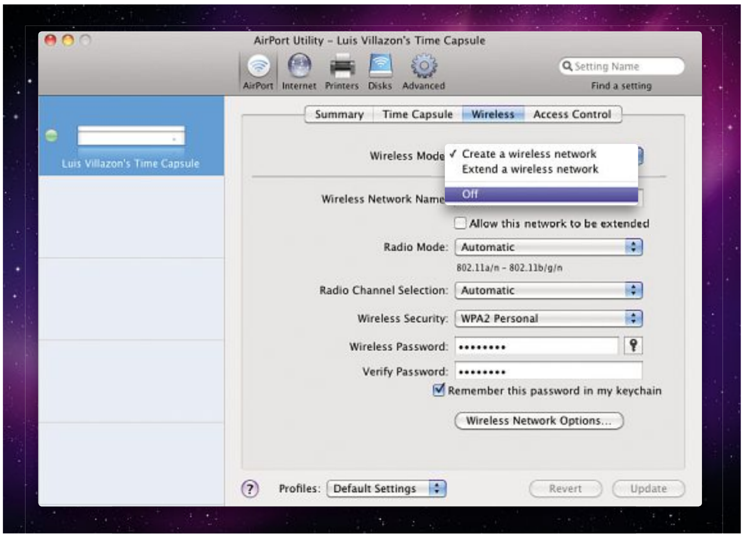
Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

"Can I set up Time Capsule without Wi-Fi"

Q **A friend has given me an unused Time Capsule and I would like to set it up with *Time Machine* as an external backup hard drive only, connected by Ethernet cable. I do not want to use the Time Capsule's other capabilities at this stage, as I'm happy with my Wi-Fi router setup.**

I have an iMac running Snow Leopard. I've not used *Time Machine* before and have not powered up the Time Capsule as I'm worried it will start setting up a wireless network and I won't be able to stop it!

Gary Whibley


AirPort Utility – Luis Villazon's Time Capsule
AirPort
Internet
Printers
Disks
Advanced
Setting Name
Find a setting
Luis Villazon's Time Capsule
Summary
Time Capsule
Wireless
Access Control
✓ Create a wireless network
Extend a wireless network
Off
Wireless Network Options…
Profiles:
Revert
Update

Wireless Mode: Off

Wireless Network Name:

☐ Allow this network to be extended

Radio Mode: Automatic

802.11a/n – 802.11b/g/n

Radio Channel Selection: Automatic

Wireless Security: WPA2 Personal

Wireless Password: ••••••••

Verify Password: ••••••••

☑ Remember this password in my keychain

Profiles: Default Settings

It's rather a waste not to use the Wi-Fi and routing capabilities of your Time Capsule, but, on the plus-side it does save any disruption to your existing home network.

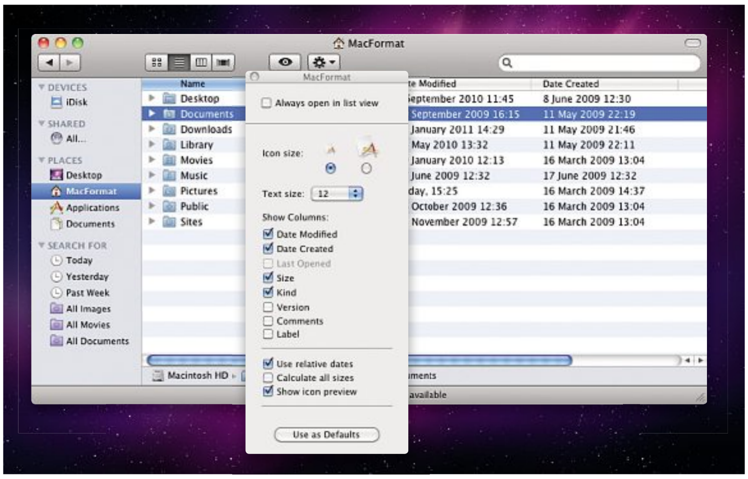
A That won't happen. Although the presumption is that the Time Capsule will be used as the primary router and wireless access point, there's nothing that enforces this configuration. If you just want to treat it as a network attached storage (NAS) disk, you should connect it directly to your broadband router/modem using an Ethernet cable. From your iMac, open the *AirPort Utility* (it's in Applications/Utilities). This should find your Time Capsule, since wireless networking is on by default. Select it and click the internet icon on the toolbar at the top of the dialog. On the Internet Connection tab, make sure Connection Sharing is set to Off (Bridge Mode). Now click the TCP/IP tab. If you're using DHCP on your router, you can set Configure IPv4 to Using DHCP and let it select an IP address for you. If you aren't using DHCP, you'll need to fill in the router address manually and choose an unused address for the Time Capsule.

Finally, click the AirPort icon on the toolbar and switch to the Wireless tab. Set Wireless Mode to Off. Your Time Capsule will now behave just like an external drive, with no routing or Wi-Fi functions enabled.

It's easy to set up your Time Capsule to act as a network attached storage disk.

"How do I make my folder views behave properly?"

Q **I've just bought a Mac and so far, so good, but I've run into a problem with *Finder*. I want all folders on my Mac to use the same view settings. I change the view settings of the open folder, then choose Show View Options and click the Use as Defaults button.**



MacFormat

☐ Always open in list view

Icon size: ● ○

Text size: 12

Show Columns:

☑ Date Modified
☑ Date Created
☐ Last Opened
☑ Size
☑ Kind
☐ Version
☐ Comments
☐ Label

☑ Use relative dates
☐ Calculate all sizes
☑ Show icon preview

Use as Defaults

Folders will ignore the default view preferences once they have been customised.

Now when I open a different folder in *Finder* two things can happen:

1. If I have never visited/opened the folder before, it has the correct default settings.

2. If I have visited/opened the folder before, it keeps its former settings, effectively bypassing the new default I set.

How do I set all folders on my Mac to use the same view settings in *Finder*? In *Windows Explorer*, I only need four mouse clicks to achieve this.

Karel Jindra, Czech Republic

A With a Mac, you can do it in three. But first, let's consider why OS X behaves in this way. When you open a folder, *Finder* looks in /Desktop/.DS_Store for the view settings. If there isn't an entry there for that folder *Finder* will use the default settings. If you find a layout that you like, you can make it into the new default by clicking the cog icon on the *Finder* toolbar (or right-clicking the icon for the folder itself) and selecting Show View Options. The Use as Defaults button only appears if the current folder settings have been changed from the defaults and clicking the button makes these settings into the new defaults. But, as you've discovered, this doesn't override the settings for any folder that you've already changed. In my view, this is the correct behaviour. If you've changed a folder's view settings manually, this is presumably because you want that folder to display in a different way. If the default view settings overrode all the custom settings then it would be difficult to have some folders with their own unique settings because every time you changed the default view, all the customised folders would get their view reset as well.

So the default settings only apply to default folders. How, then, do you revert a customised folder to the defaults so that it will once again inherit the default view and all subsequent changes to that default? Simple: select Show View Options as before and hold down the ⌥ key. The Use as Defaults button now changes to Restore to Defaults.

"Snap, crackle and pop from external speakers..."

Q I have a 27-inch iMac connected to a pair of Audioengine A2 speakers. Recently I've been getting a pop or crackle noise from these speakers every few minutes. I've heard it was an issue for people updating to OS X 10.4.10, but my iMac is up to date.

Johnny Winter

A Maybe the problem isn't with the iMac? Does it happen with the sound muted. Is the crackling the same volume, regardless of the setting on the Mac? Turn off the Mac but leave the speakers powered up. Try leaving both Mac and speakers on but with the audio cable disconnected. Crackles can be caused by loose connections or electromagnetic interference from other devices. Fridge compressors starting up are a source of this. Check cables and connections, then try turning off devices in the house until you locate the problem.

»

Swiss army knives

Bill Gallop

There are many utilities I turn to to do a quick and simple job. These are free or low cost and are flexible and useful for either getting files from one format to another or for doing a quick and dirty edit. My top three 'Swiss army knives' are *MPEG Streamclip* (**www.squared5.com**), *TextWrangler* (**www.barebones.com/products/textwrangler**) and *Graphic Converter* (**www.lemkesoft.com**).

MPEG Streamclip can open just about any video file and transcode it to just about any format. You can do quick edits to remove things such as ad breaks, cut and paste video together and even batch-convert a number of files at the same time. It can also download video from YouTube and convert unencrypted DVDs to other formats. The format conversion, scaling and demuxing it offers are often better than what you can do with **Compressor** from *Final Cut Studio* and so many professionals will often prepare files with *MPEG Streamclip* first. Oh, and it's free.

Another great free app is *TextWrangler*. It's available from the Mac App Store and from BareBones; however, I'd get it from the latter as there are some features missing from the App Store version that had to be removed in order to comply with the store's rules. If you ever need to edit a config file of some sort and don't want to dive into *Terminal*, do a find and replace on a text file where you are searching for patterns of characters, compare two text files for the differences between them, open and edit files on an FTP server or write code in a number of different languages then you should check it out.

> *"MPEG Streamclip can open most video files and transcode it to most formats. Use it for quick edits and batch converts"*

Finally, and one that costs money (but not a lot), *GraphicConverter* can open a huge range of graphic file formats or import from your scanner, do basic editing including applying a range of filters and then save the file out in common (and some obscure) file formats. You can also generate catalogs of your images as HTML. *Graphic Converter* supports batch conversions and is scriptable using AppleScript so can be used to automatically process images as part of your workflow.

Incidentally, I also buy software bundles from MacHeist or MacUpdate. Generally one or two products in the bundle are enough to justify the price but you get a lot of other software that soon comes in useful. ●

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

>> QUICK TIP

Dave Braine writes to say that if you have video projects in *iMovie '09* that don't let you share them to *iDVD*, you can sometimes fix this by adding a JPEG or PNG file to the project.

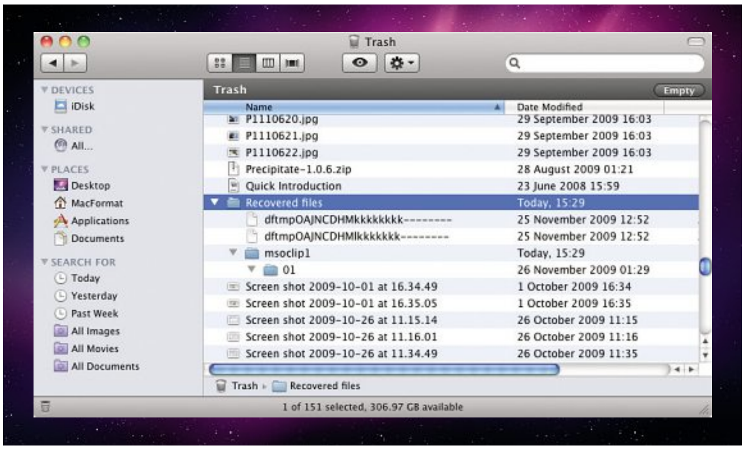
"Why have my fonts suddenly gone tiny?"

Q **I've been happily using an iMac with Tiger OS X 10.4 for some years now. It's all linked up by USB cable to an HP desktop printer, which has always been fine. However, a couple of weeks ago, I suddenly (and very annoyingly) found that all the letters from the printer were coming out with the typeface at half the size. I connected up my wife's MacBook to the printer and produced perfect results. Obviously the fault lies with my iMac. Please could you advise me on repairing this, before my wife loses her MacBook?**

John Shields

A It sounds as if there are two possibilities, neither of which you probably want to hear. Either the fonts on your iMac are corrupted or the printer driver has a bug.

If you use the Save As PDF function on the print dialog, your print job is translated into a PDF document without going through the HP printer driver. So if the PDF document looks right on the screen but sending that PDF to the printer substitutes fonts again, then you know the fault lies with the HP driver. If there is a newer version, you can download it from http://welcome.hp.com/country/uk/en/support.html.



Trash

Name	Date Modified
P1110620.jpg	29 September 2009 16:03
P1110621.jpg	29 September 2009 16:03
P1110622.jpg	29 September 2009 16:03
Precipitate-1.0.6.zip	28 August 2009 01:21
Quick Introduction	23 June 2008 15:59
Recovered files	Today, 15:29
dftmpOAJNCDHMkkkkkkk--------	25 November 2009 12:52
dftmpOAJNCDHMlkkkkkk--------	25 November 2009 12:52
msoclip1	Today, 15:29
01	26 November 2009 01:29
Screen shot 2009-10-01 at 16.34.49	1 October 2009 16:34
Screen shot 2009-10-01 at 16.35.05	1 October 2009 16:35
Screen shot 2009-10-26 at 11.15.14	26 October 2009 11:15
Screen shot 2009-10-26 at 11.16.01	26 October 2009 11:16
Screen shot 2009-10-26 at 11.34.49	26 October 2009 11:35

1 of 151 selected, 306.97 GB available

If OS X puts a file in the Trash without asking you, it's a safe bet it thinks you won't need it.

If the PDF looks wrong, even on the screen, try logging in as a different user (creating a new account, if necessary). If that user account can print correctly then it's probably the fonts. Make sure you aren't using more than one font manager, such as *Suitcase Fusion* and the built-in *Font Book* application. Fonts in /Library/Fonts (the ones in your home folder) will override the ones in the system level /Library/Fonts and it's possible for a corrupted font database to incorrectly think one font is a substitute for a system-level one, when they are completely different typefaces.

"Is there a right time to buy a new Mac?"

Q **I'm planning on buying a brand-new MacBook Pro this year. However, I'm worried that with the announcement of OS X Lion they may release a new line of MacBooks.**

It's been three years since I bought my existing iMac and, prior to that, it was two years before when I bought my first Mac, which was a Mac mini. I'd be really gutted if I spent loads of money on a brand-new Mac only to find Apple released a new line a couple of months later.

Tim Harris

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Tackling an inability to sign into the App Store

Apple's new Mac App Store is clearly a work in progress, and as a first release, the current version sometimes has quirks with handling installed apps, among other issues such as handling authentication and account sign-in. Some have mentioned signing into the App Store, but the store refusing passwords, or the login window not accepting any input.

If you're having troubles logging into the Mac App Store, first try testing your Apple ID. This can be done in a variety of ways, including logging into the iTunes Store, or checking and managing your account at Apple's account management web page (**https://appleid.apple.com**). With your account verified, try the following options to see if they help fix the issue:

1. Clear the App Store cache
Go to the **/username/Library/Caches/com.apple.appstore** folder and remove the file called **Cache.db**. Then relaunch the App Store and try again. You can also try removing the **com.apple.appstore** folder from the caches directory and retry the store.

2. Clear Store preferences
As with other applications, corruption in the store's preferences file may result in odd behaviour and could affect functions such as logging in. Try going to the **/username/Library/Preferences** folder and remove the file called **com.apple.storeagent.plist**. Then relaunch the App Store and try again.

3. Fix permissions
If the first two options do not work, try opening *Disk Utility* and running a full permissions fix on the boot drive. This should ensure all system files are properly accessible by the system and hopefully correct any error with file access that could be contributing to the problem.

4. Run combo updater
Lastly, if the App Store application or a required system component is corrupted, try reinstalling it. Go to the Apple Support Downloads page (**http://support.apple.com/downloads**) and get the latest combo updater (currently OS X 10.6.6 – **http://support.apple.com/kb/dl1349**). Restart the system into **Safe Mode** by holding the ⇧ key at boot-up, and then run the downloaded installer when in **Safe Mode**.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

A As fate would have it Apple refreshed the MacBook specs this month with a big leap forward in graphics, processing power and a new Thunderbolt port (read our reviews starting on page 86). Obviously, all Macs are still shipping with Snow Leopard, but in the past Apple has offered people who have purchased a Mac just before a OS X upgrade the option to upgrade for a very small fee. OS X 10.7 Lion pricing hasn't been announced yet, but it could well be higher than the £26 Apple is asking for Snow Leopard.

"Are these random files safe to delete?"

Q I'm a fairly new Mac OS X user and have a 27-inch iMac running Snow Leopard. Sometimes when I reboot the machine I have a folder appear in my Trash called Recovered Items; this folder ends up containing any random files but when I check, the original file is there. Today an AVI file was in there, for example; I checked and the original AVI is still there.
Gavin Browett

A When applications create temporary files, by convention they are placed in the /tmp or /var/tmp folders. These folders are hidden so they aren't normally displayed in *Finder* (and in fact, they are just symbolic links anyway – the real folders are private tmp and private var/tmp). If you really want to, you can open them by hitting ⇧+⌘+G and entering the name of the folder to jump straight to it.

Anyway, these temporary files are supposed to be deleted when the application quits – that's more or less the definition of a temporary file. But if the application crashes or you force-quit it, then it obviously doesn't get a chance to tidy up and some files are left behind. When OS X next restarts, it empties the tmp folders and puts them in the Trash in a subfolder called Recovered Items. This is just a precaution, in case you need to try and salvage unsaved work after a nasty crash. In almost all cases the Recovered Items folder is perfectly safe to delete, along with everything else, when you empty the Trash.

» MACFIXIT TIPS / Finder icons jumping around?

Keeping items organised within a *Finder* window is useful and is a reason why Apple made *Finder* simple and straightforward with options to show items in lists, columns, and snapped to a grid in icon views. While these views keep items quick to access, sometimes things jump around and change locations.

When this happens, it's usually because of a combination of view settings. If you show items in any view, you have the option to arrange or sort them by various file attributes. The default is the file name, which sorts items alphabetically; however, if you go to the view options (available in the **View** menu or by pressing ⌘+J) you can change the sorting to order by attributes including **kind**, **label**, **size**, and **date modified**. If you use **date modified** or **size**, the placement of items in the *Finder* window will change as you edit them.

This may be apparent if you have items sorted by size and also have the *Finder* calculate the size of all files. In this situation, files will be sorted by size, but since folder sizes will take a while longer to fully calculate, once the *Finder* has determined their size they will jump to a different position.

For the **Icon** and **Column** view modes, these view settings are only available in the view options window, but in list view you should be able to click the title of any listed attribute to sort by that attribute (clicking again reverses the sort order). In list view you can add and remove attributes using the view options window, but sorting is done in *Finder*.

While combinations of view settings may make files jump around, there also might be problems with the file that is used to store these view settings. Each folder in OS X that is accessed by the *Finder* will contain a hidden Desktop Services Store (**.DS_Store**) file, which is used to hold the view settings for that folder. If there is a problem with this file then the system might not display and organise *Finder* window contents properly.

One approach to correcting this is to locate the affected **.DS_Store** file, but this can be difficult because of the way the *Finder* inherits settings from each of these files as you navigate through files and folders. The easiest approach is to use a program such as *BlueHarvest* to scan for and remove these files from the system. After this is done, *Finder* should recreate them as you access folders.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

"Transferring my Mac family tree application"

Q I have a MacBook and a Toshiba laptop running *Family Historian*, as it's only available for PC. I would like to transfer these files to the MacBook and work with them there. Can this be done?
Robin Laughlin

A If you want to use *Family Historian* on your MacBook, you'll have to use *Boot Camp* or one of the emulator programs (*VirtualBox*, *VMWare Fusion* or *Parallels Desktop*) to run Windows. But *Family Historian* will happily output all its data in GEDCOM format, which is the standard for genealogy software. You save these files on a memory stick or burn them to a CD, or just email them to yourself to move them over to your MacBook and then load them into a Mac genealogy app. Have a look at www.macgenealogy.org for independent advice on which one to choose.

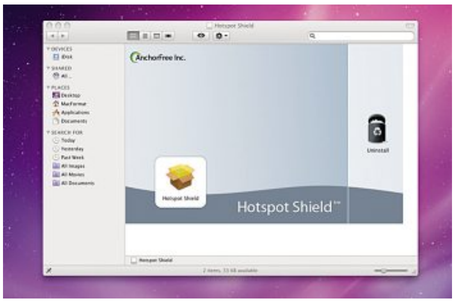
» QUICK TIP

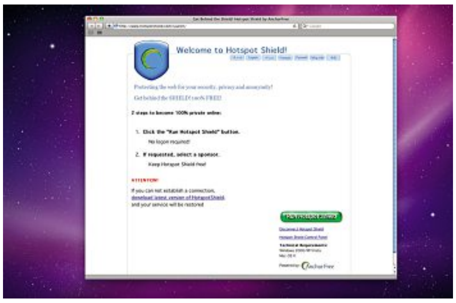
If you remove a drive without unmounting or ejecting it, OS X will run filing system diagnostics when it next reconnects.

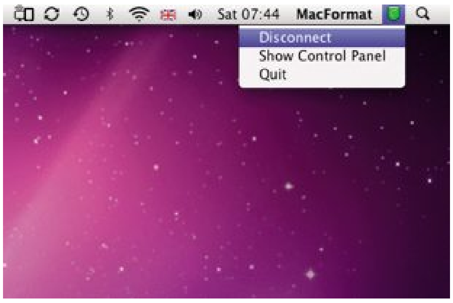
MacBook Pro

A refresh of the MacBook Pro range has just happened. Read our reviews starting on page 86 for all the details.

HOW TO / Pretend you're surfing from somewhere else







01 Location…

Ever come across a site restricted for US visitors only? Wouldn't it be handy if you could *pretend* you were stateside? Or maybe you want to encrypt your Wi-Fi while you are in a public place. *Hotspot Shield* **http://anchorfree.com** is the tool for you.

02 Location…

Hotspot Shield uses Virtual Private Networking to tunnel connections to the Anchorfree servers. Once the icon turns green the link is established and you can browse. To others, your IP address will appear to belong to the Anchorfree server.

03 Location!

Some location-specific sites (such as **Hulu.com**) have cottoned on to this and will block Hotspot Shield IP addresses and there is a 5GB bandwidth limit over a 30-day window. But for a quick way to remain anonymous, it's a handy utility to have on the menu bar. ●

QUICK TIP

Hold down T as your Mac starts, to put it in **Target Disk Mode**. Any internal drives can be accessed from another Mac via the FireWire ports. This feature is built into the hardware so it works even if OS X is corrupted.

"Importing from my DV camera without FireWire"

Q I've just purchased a new MacBook but can't connect my Canon MVX460 digital video camera to it as the MacBook doesn't have a FireWire port. I tried a FireWire to USB converter to no avail. Canon tells me the camera will only work FireWire to FireWire. Can you suggest anything, please?
Chris Jenner

A I wish I could. The way that Canon has chosen to implement the FireWire interface on most of its camcorders is restrictive. They won't cooperate with any other FireWire devices except as the slave. That means that you can't plug them directly into an external FireWire disk, for example, and I think it's also the reason that FireWire-to-USB converters don't work. You can only pull the data off the camcorder from a host device, rather than pushing it from the camera. The solutions I can think of will work out more expensive than replacing your camcorder.

"Why did my photos change resolution?"

Q I recently had to email some photographs to a publisher. The requirements were that they were 300dpi and at least 5MB in size. I got an email back saying the photos they had received were not up to the requirements. I checked

MACFIXIT TIPS / iTunes 10: Screensaver starts during full-screen Visualizer

Some people are reporting an issue with *iTunes 10* where the screensaver starts while they are using the Visualizer in full-screen mode on devices such as HDTVs. Prior to *iTunes 10*, the Visualizer would take precedence on the screen display, not allowing the screensaver to start when playing, similar to a full-screen video. Apple Support Discussions user "megadot" writes:

I have my Mac mini connected to my TV and I have my screensaver set to come on after three minutes. However, since upgrading to *iTunes 10* my screensaver starts after three minutes when I'm using a full-screen Visualizer. I use the Visualizer whenever I'm listening to music. This didn't used to happen and it's really annoying. The same thing happens with *iTunes 10* on my desktop Mac and my MacBook Pro. Is there a way to stop this happening without turning the screensaver off?

Several other commenters have cited similar symptoms. Testing the issue on my MacBook Pro, with no displays connected, I found it happened as described. I set the screensaver wait time to three minutes and put the *iTunes* Visualizer in full-screen mode. At the three-minute mark, the visualizer blacked out and the screensaver took over.

Waking my MacBook Pro deactivated the screensaver and put the Visualizer in a window.

After testing every combination I could think of, I concluded this is not a bug, but a change to *iTunes 10*. Most likely, Apple engineers found playing the Visualizer at full screen was depleting the battery life of portables too quickly. In order to help protect battery life, any screensaver trumps the Visualizer. Because this is an inherent function of *iTunes* and Mac OS X, there is no 'fix' other than turning off your screensaver. A workaround is to turn off your automatic screensaver and use a Hot Corner to activate your screensaver manually.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

Mail resizes photos to make them faster to send, but don't print them at these resolutions.

and sent them again with the same reply. The photos were saved originally as JPEG with Maximum quality. On my iMac the photos are over 6MB and both are 300dpi. I sent them using *Apple Mail* using my Talk Talk AOL Account. Could you give any explanation as to why they should arrive a smaller size?
Peter Holme

A The first thing is that you should export your pictures from *iPhoto* by saving them as Original, rather than JPEG. Even with Maximum quality, the JPEG export setting can change the output resolution for large files and even though the file size will sometimes go up, the number of pixels in the image will drop. But this wouldn't be enough to account for the huge resizing in the files you sent me. That, I'm pretty sure, is just caused by *Mail's* resize feature. When you attach an image to your email, you'll see a drop-down menu appear in the bottom right of the message pane, labelled Image Size. Unless that is set to Actual Size, your image will be resized. And by resized, I mean shrunk. Even Large size is only 1280x960, which is a fraction of the resolution of your 6MB original.

"Why isn't my Quicksilver app working?"

Q **I'm new to the Mac but have been using computers for over 20 years. I love my Mac and can't think of why I waited so long to switch. I do have a problem trying to run *Quicksilver* though. I've downloaded the program and when I run it I see the *QS* on the screen like it's going to start, but the program doesn't start. It worked once and I was able to play with it but I can't get it to run again. I was also able to pull up a *Terminal* window once that showed an error but I'm not sure how I did it. I'm running OS X 10.6.5 in 64-bit mode on a 13-inch Macbook Pro.**
Peter Huckstep

A *Quicksilver* (http://qsapp.com) is a plug-in framework for OS X that's designed to speed up commonly used actions and provide integrated search. There is some overlap with Spotlight but it works in a different way and there are lots of other things it can do as well. In fact, since it uses plug-ins, there isn't very much it can't do.

That's the good news. The bad news is that it breaks a lot. *Quicksilver* is open source and currently, you have the choice of using the B54 build, which is buggy, or the B58, which is very buggy. Of course, you also have the choice of *not* using it, and that's the one I recommend. Fundamentally, the whole point of using a Mac over a PC is because the Mac is designed, whereas the PC just evolved. Closed operating systems on proprietary hardware platforms trade customisability for stability. I think that's a good trade and I don't see anything in *Quicksilver* that is worth the loss of stability.

So my advice is to leave *Quicksilver* alone. At least until a version comes along that doesn't start with B (for beta). But, if you insist, there's a good manual at http://mysite.verizon.net/hmelman/Quicksilver.pdf. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I have an Intel mac with a built-in camera. I haven't used it for ages but now when I open *Photo Booth* the message across the middle of the screen reads: 'There is no connected camera'.

I haven't knowingly turned it off and the only software changes over time were a full Leopard then Snow Leopard install later on! Does anybody have any ideas about how to turn it back on again please?

Member: mcf_Uggles **Join Date:** Mar 2008 **Location:** Shoreham, West Sussex **Posts:** 12

A Do you have another application open that is using the camera? The *iSight* camera can only be used in one application at a time. If I have *Photo Booth* loaded and click on 'camera' in the tool bar there is a tick against Built in iSight (Default).

Member: mcf_Macdonkey **Join Date:** Feb 2010 **Posts:** 48

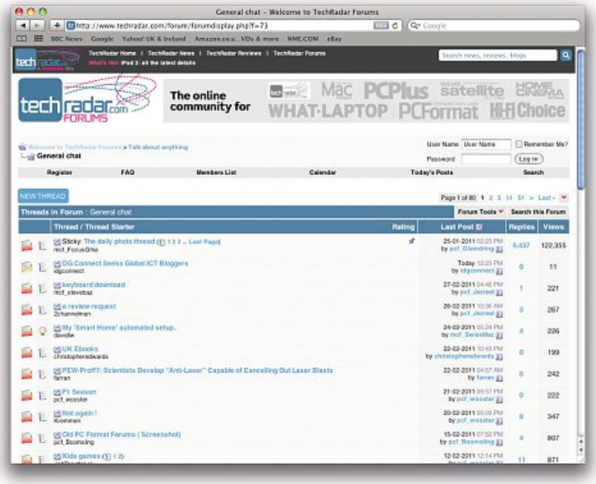
Q Yep, got the tick against **Built in iSight camera** but not aware of anything else running it. Never used *iChat* and the green status light isn't on, so still flummoxed?

Member: mcf_Uggles **Join Date:** Mar 2008 **Location:** Shoreham, West Sussex **Posts:** 12

A Try the troubleshooting steps in the Apple KB article called *How to Troubleshoot iSight*. You can find it at **http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2090**.

Should that yield no results, the only other thought that occurs to me right now is to download and install the Combo update for the version of OS X that you have installed. If this also fails then it's likely to be a hardware issue and will require a visit to your local Apple Retail Store or your local independent Apple Authorised Service Provider.

Member: mcf_Costas **Join Date:** Jun 2007 **Location:** London **Posts:** 1,911


General chat – Welcome to TechRadar Forums
http://www.techradar.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=73
Google
BBC News
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Yahoo! UK & Ireland
Amazon.co.uk...VDs & more
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Mac
PCPlus
satellite
HOME CINEMA
WHAT LAPTOP
PCFormat
Hi-Fi Choice
Welcome to TechRadar Forums > Talk about anything
General chat
User Name
Remember Me?
Password
Log in
Register
FAQ
Members List
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Search
NEW THREAD
Page 1 of 80 1 2 3 11 51 > Last
Threads in Forum : General chat
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Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Last Post	Replies	Views
Sticky: The daily photo thread (1 2 3 ... Last Page) mcf_FocusGNa		25-01-2011 12:23 PM by pcf_Glendring	9,437	122,355
DG Connect Seeks Global ICT Bloggers idgconnect		Today 12:23 PM by idgconnect	0	11
keyboard download mcf_stevebaz		27-02-2011 04:46 PM by pcf_Jezreel	1	221
a review request 2channelman		26-02-2011 10:36 AM by pcf_Jezreel	3	267
My 'Smart Home' automated setup.. davidlw		24-02-2011 05:24 PM by mcf_SwissMac	4	226
UK Ebooks christopheredwards		22-02-2011 10:43 PM by christopheredwards	0	199
PEW-Pew!?: Scientists Develop "Anti-Laser" Capable of Cancelling Out Laser Blasts farran		22-02-2011 04:57 AM by farran	0	242
F1 Season pcf_wooster		21-02-2011 09:57 PM by pcf_wooster	0	222
Not again! Kronman		20-02-2011 05:03 PM by pcf_wooster	8	347
Old PC Format Forums (Screenshot) pcf_Boomsling		15-02-2011 07:52 PM by pcf_Boomsling	4	807
Kids games (1 2) [illegible]		12-02-2011 12:14 PM	11	871

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Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Even though we thought it was pretty much perfect, Apple's newly refreshed MacBook Pro range has just got even better. The high-end notebooks made significant advances last April when the 15- and 17-inch models switched to the Intel Core-i series processors and introduced automatic graphics switching, with the 13-inch model benefitting from a powerful new integrated graphics chipset. But less than a year on, Apple is back with a refresh that's arguably more significant. The range now uses Core-i processors, the new AMD Radeon GPUs are up to three times faster and Intel's Thunderbolt port makes its Mac debut. We'll hear a lot about this input/output technology over the coming months.

Over in the software section, we cover the latest version of Roxio's *Toast* disc-burning and video conversion suite. The application has been rebuilt from the ground up, and is more streamlined, faster and easier to use. But is it worth upgrading to the new *Roxio Toast 11* if you already own *Toast 10*? Turn to page 94 and read all about it.

» OUR LOGOS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★ A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.

Mac FORMAT Winner! Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

Mac FORMAT On the disc This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> APPLE NOTEBOOKS

MacBook Pro 13-inch 2.7GHz Core i7, 15-inch 2.2GHz Core i7

£1,299, £1,849 The latest refresh represents an incredible leap forward for Apple's notebook range

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

13-inch MacBook Pro

Processor: Dual-core 2.7GHz Intel Core i7 **RAM:** 4GB **Hard disk:** 500GB **Ports:** 2xUSB 2.0, 1xFireWire 800, 1xThunderbolt, SDXC **Display:** 13.3-inch glossy, 1280x800 resolution **Graphics:** Intel HD Graphics 3000

15-inch MacBook Pro

Processor: Quad-core 2.2GHz Intel Core i7 **RAM:** 4GB **Hard disk:** 750GB **Ports:** 2xUSB 2.0, 1xFW 800, 1xThunderbolt, SDXC **Display:** 15.4-inch glossy, 1440x900 resolution **Graphics:** AMD Radeon HD 6750M, Intel HD Graphics 3000

PROS & CONS

13-inch MacBook Pro

- ⊕ Core 2 Duo retired
- ⊕ Thunderbolt port
- ⊕ Big performance increase
- ⊖ No anti-glare screen option

15-inch MacBook Pro

- ⊕ Quad-core processor
- ⊕ Powerful AMD graphics
- ⊕ Thunderbolt port
- ⊖ No SSD as standard

VERDICT

13-inch MacBook Pro

★★★★★

"Core-i processors give the 13-inch Pros a massive performance boost."

15-inch MacBook Pro

★★★★★

"The mid-sized range goes from strength to strength with this useful refresh."

There are two kinds of Mac update: major revisions, where the entire form factor and possibly the internal architecture undergo a radical redesign; and incremental refreshes, with components upgraded to take advantage of recent releases. Other than the Thunderbolt port, the overall design and build of the new MacBook Pros remains the same, so the February 2011 update would have to go down as a refresh rather than a relaunch. But the term hardly does it justice. The new MacBook Pros aren't just a step in the right direction, but a great leap forward. Or rather, three leaps forward, with new processors, new graphics and an exciting new I/O technology.

The early 2011 refresh sees the entire MacBook Pro line-up move to the new Sandy Bridge second-generation Core-i series processors. While the 15- and 17-inch models switched to first-gen Core-i chips with the mid-2010 revision, the smallest MacBook Pro was forced to stick with the Core 2 Duo. Legal problems prevented NVIDIA graphics chipsets from being integrated into the newer processors, and the logic board was too small to support a discrete GPU. Apple was forced to use the ageing Core 2 Duo with an integrated NVIDIA chipset, as a Core-i processor's Intel HD Graphics would be an unacceptable graphical backwards step. Less than a year later, the Core-i processor itself has undergone a revision. Its new Intel HD 3000 Graphics is on a par with the integrated NVIDIA GeForce 320M chipset used before, so the 13-inch MacBook Pro is able to join its more spacious siblings and move to the new Sandy Bridge Core-i processors without any loss of graphical power.

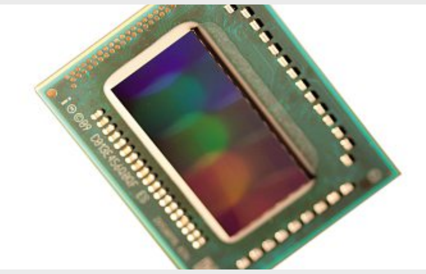
> *"The 13-inch MacBook Pro is able to join its more spacious siblings and move to the new Sandy Bridge Core-i processors"*

The new CPUs integrate the processor, cache, memory controller and graphics engine on a single chip for increased performance. In a surprising but very welcome move, Apple has skipped the entry-level Core i3 processor, and equipped its entire MacBook Pro range with the more powerful Core i5 and i7 chips. All offer Hyper Threading, whereby each of the processor's cores can run two threads, allowing it to carry out two tasks simultaneously. This feature really comes into its own when comparing the two Macs reviewed here in our *Cinebench 3D* rendering test. When using only one core, the 13-inch model's 2.7GHz processor was slightly ahead of the 15-inch notebook's 2.2GHz chip. But with all cores available, the dual core, four-thread processor was totally outperformed. The bigger MacBook Pro's quad-core chip with eight virtual threads proved 50% faster. It's also worth noting that the 13-inch MacBook Pro's multi-core *Cinebench* score almost doubled its mid-2010, 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo predecessor's result. See what we mean about a great leap forwards?

The processors also include Turbo Boost 2.0, which shifts core

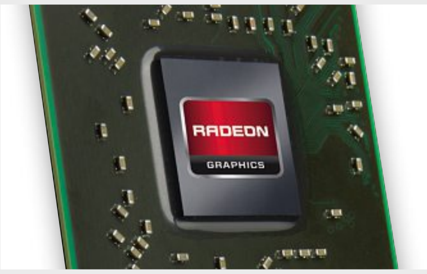
The 13-inch MacBook Pro has made the switch from the Core 2 Duo to the more powerful Core-i chips. All new MacBook Pros have a high-speed Thunderbolt port.

QUICK LOOK / New architecture revealed



New processors

The entire MacBook Pro range benefits from Intel's Sandy Bridge next-gen Core-i processors, featuring single-chip micro-architecture, Hyper Threading, Turbo Boost and the new Intel HD Graphics 3000 integrated GPUs.



Updated graphics

The 15-inch MacBook Pros use AMD discrete graphics chips, switching from the NVIDIA GPUs used in the last generation. The 2.2GHz model reviewed here has an AMD Radeon HD 6490M with 256MB of GDDR5 memory.

Thunderbolt connectivity

The new Thunderbolt port is standard in every MacBook Pro, bringing bi-directional 10Gbps speeds to the Mac. You can daisy-chain up to six peripherals in a single port, and connect older devices using adapters.

frequency in smaller increments than before and relocates processor resources to accelerate performance. The dual-core 2.7GHz Core i7 used in the 13-inch MacBook Pro can reach 3.4GHz under Turbo Boost, with the 15-inch's quad-core 2.2GHz chip managing up to 3.3GHz.

Graphically intense

The new MacBook Pros have integrated Intel HD Graphics 3000 processors. All except the 13-inch models also boast powerful AMD discrete GPUs, which come into play automatically when running graphically intense applications. The 15-inch notebook reviewed here has an AMD Radeon HD 6750M. It achieved 171.4 frames per second in our *Doom 3* test, a 42% increase over its predecessor. The improvement enjoyed by the 13-inch model was even more pronounced. Running solely on Intel's integrated graphics, it managed 71.3 frames a second, just under 95% faster than the previous model. Both new notebooks ran the more modern *Call of Duty 4* at a comfortable speed, reaching 84.3 and 44.7 frames a second respectively.

The third major leap forward is of limited use at present, but will come into its own over time. The Thunderbolt port is incredibly speedy and very versatile. It runs at up to 10Gbps throughput in both directions, and can carry video and audio signals. At the launch briefing, Apple daisy-chained a hard drive and an Apple display to the MacBook Pro's Thunderbolt port, achieving incredibly quick speeds when transferring a file from the internal to an external drive. At the time of writing there are no Thunderbolt-compatible storage peripherals on the shelves, so we haven't had a chance to run tests, but we look forward to doing so.

Other enhancements enjoyed by the refreshed MacBook Pro range include a 720p FaceTime HD camera, which has three times the resolution of the older iSight webcams and improved low light resolution. The notebook's SD card reader can now handle high-capacity SDXC cards.

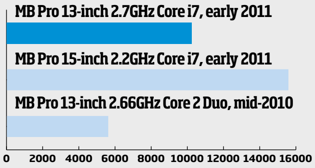
> *"Other enhancements include a 720p FaceTime HD camera, which has three times the resolution of the older iSight cameras"*

We've very little to complain about here. The stated battery life has fallen, but this change is actually down to honesty. Apple has instigated a new, more rigorous testing regime that better reflects real-world use. Expected battery life is actually on a par with the previous generation of MacBook Pros, and at seven hours, is enough for a whole day's mains-free use. There's no Blu-ray drive, but we weren't expecting one. A faster DVD drive would have been a boon, though. An antiglare screen option for the 13-inch MacBook Pro would be welcome too.

But the overall story here is one of greatly increased value for money. The 13-inch model is actually cheaper than the one it replaces, and the rest of the range has only seen small inflationary rises. For Macs that make such great advances over the last generation, this is welcome indeed.

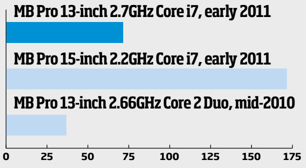
Ian Osborne

BENCHMARKS / How do the MacBook Pros stack up?



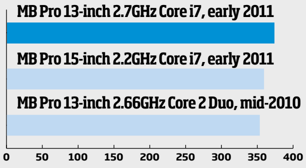
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



iTunes encoding (Seconds)

A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR.

The Hanns.G display is very thin, but at the same time doesn't feel very sturdy.

>>19-INCH LED MONITOR

Hanns.G HL196

£120 Is this slim-line monitor a worthy addition to a Mac setup?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Hanns.G
www.hannsg.com/eu/en

REQUIREMENTS

Display: 19-inch LED-backlit TN TFT 1280x1024 **Aspect ratio:** 5:4 **I/O:** DVI-D, VGA **Contrast ratio:** 1000:1 **Brightness:** 250cd/m^2 **Dimensions:** 412Wx400Hx180mm **Weight:** 2.5kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Anti-glare surface
- ⊖ Poor viewing angles
- ⊖ Feels flimsy
- ⊖ No height adjustment

VERDICT

★★⯪☆☆

"Unexciting, but still a decent and affordable second monitor."

Fans of matte anti-glare screens, rejoice. With this Hanns.G 19-inch display, you can wave goodbye to much of the annoying reflection from windows or lights that affects glossy displays.

It's not the only thing we like about this monitor – it's thin and light, and can be hung on the wall with a VESA mount. On the back are both VGA and DVI-D connectors, and you can switch between the two using the control panel on the lower front edge. But the fact that the unit's so light means that when you press the buttons, you end up wobbling the whole thing from side to side.

Putting the controls on the front wouldn't have been much better, since the whole thing rocks around when you touch the casing, and adjusting the angle of the screen made us rather nervous something would snap. It isn't height-adjustable either, so you'll likely need a stand.

The 5:4 ratio screen isn't ideal if you plan to watch a lot of films on it, since these will be letterboxed. But as a second monitor, it'll take up less room on your desk than most widescreens and gives plenty of extra workspace.

As you'd expect, colours look slightly washed out next to a glossy Apple display, but seen on their own, they're decent, if not especially bright or vivid. There's a clear distinction between white and the lightest shades of grey, and between black and the darkest greys. The monitor's viewing angles were poor, though, with even slight sideways movements causing colours to change.

It's a cheap and cheerful but unremarkable product, and bear in mind that you can get 19-inch widescreen monitors for less.

Laurence Cable

When not in use, the earphones fold flat to fit in a carry bag for convenient portability.

>>WIRELESS HEADPHONES

AKG K830BT High-End Bluetooth Headset

£140 Can these wireless headphones finally free your sounds?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Harman
www.harman.com

REQUIREMENTS

Connectivity: Bluetooth 2.1, EDR, A2DP, AVRCP, HSP and HFP **Range:** up to 10 metres **Battery life:** 8hrs

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Lightweight and comfortable
- ⊕ Detailed, crisp sound
- ⊕ Plenty of volume
- ⊖ Mic a little too close to output

VERDICT

★★★⯪☆

"Crisp, detailed sound and Bluetooth convenience, but still an expensive buy."

Do you like to keep your music private, but don't appreciate trailing cables? Then these Bluetooth headphones could be just what you need. Powered by an eight-hour rechargeable battery, you can pair your AKG K830BTs with your Mac or iOS device and move around freely, as long as you stay within their 10-metre range.

They're very comfortable to wear and lightweight. Controls on the left earcup let you adjust the volume, skip tracks, pause/resume your music and when paired with an iPhone, take an incoming call. When not in use, they fold flat and fit in the bundled drawstring carry bag.

We've few complaints about the sound quality here. Audio is clear and crisp, with excellent detail reproduction, a superb mid-range and crystal-clear vocals. Bass is well realised, but not very prominent. They can handle a reasonable amount of volume but distort if you turn up the volume too loud, though the sound isolation is pretty good. They cut out the outside world well, and there's little leakage at reasonable volumes.

But the headphones are less accomplished when used as an iPhone headset. The mic is so close to the earpiece that the person phoning you often hears a delayed echo of his or her own voice during the call; though not disastrous, it can get pretty annoying.

If you're looking for high-quality Bluetooth earphones for listening to your music, you won't go far wrong with these. As a telephony headset, the quality is acceptable enough for you to tolerate interruptions to your musical enjoyment with short calls.

Ian Osborne

Creative Technology's ZiiSound T6 speakers are compact and stylish.
Photography: Neil Godwin

>> WIRELESS SPEAKER SYSTEM

Creative ZiiSound T6 2.1

£280 It's versatile and attractive, but does its substance match its style?

Creative's ZiiSound T6 speaker system is laudably versatile. You can connect it to your audio source using an RCA stereo input for music systems, USB for your Mac and a 3.5mm jack for just about anything that has a headphone socket. You can also transmit your sounds wirelessly using Bluetooth, which is perfect for Macs and iOS devices. USB and 30-pin dongles are supplied for computers and iPods that don't have integrated Bluetooth, and audio quality loses almost nothing in comparison to a cabled connection.

An infra-red remote lets you adjust the volume, skip or pause tracks and switch between audio sources, and a cabled desktop control pod combines volume and source controls with headphone and AUX-in sockets.

There's a Bass Level Control on the back of the subwoofer too, which is inconvenient for on-the-fly adjustment. It's a pity this can't be controlled from the remote or the desktop pod.

A 2.1 stereo system, the T6 has a three-driver subwoofer and twin two-driver satellites, with upper speakers that can be independently turned to give virtual surround sound. You can even set it up as a 5.1 system, but only when connected through USB to your computer. Although it's no substitute for a speaker in each corner, this is certainly the next best thing. It defines its space very well, and certainly makes you feel you're at the centre of the sound. Satellites can be wall-mounted using optional brackets, and the system has enough volume to fill a decent-sized room.

> *"The sound quality is a mixed bag. The top end is detailed and very clear, but the mid-range struggles"*

Unfortunately, the sound quality is a mixed bag. The top end is detailed and very clear. If the audio as a whole reached this level of precision, the T6 would be in the running for five stars. But the mid-range struggles, giving the overall sound an incomplete feel. Bass is prominent but flabby and indistinct. When watching a movie, deep voices can echo and vibrate.

The ZiiSound T6 speaker system has its strong points, but its overall performance doesn't match its price.
Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Creative Technology Ltd
http://uk.creative.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: satellites 2x6cm, subwoofer 3x13cm **Inputs:** 2xRCA, 3.5mm jack, USB, Bluetooth **Weight:** satellite 0.821kg, subwoofer 4.86kg

PROS & CONS

- + Bluetooth well realised
- + Stylish design
- + Extremely versatile
- – Average audio quality

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"Not without its qualities, but disappointing for a Creative flagship system."

>> COMPACT CAMERA

Nikon Coolpix S3100

£130 A slim device with 5x zoom and HD video

CONTACTS

Developer: Nikon UK
www.europe-nikon.com

REQUIREMENTS

Resolution: 14 million pixels
Lens: NIKKOR 4.6-23.0mm f/3.2-6.5
Viewfinder: 2.7-inch LCD with 230,00 dots **Dimensions:** 93.5x57.5x18.4mm **Weight:** 118g

PROS & CONS

⊕ Stylish, slim and pocket-sized
⊕ Easy to use point-and-shoot
⊖ Decent quality images
⊖ Closest focus 10cm in macro

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Simplicity, style and decent images that make great A3 prints."

Announced in February, the Coolpix S3100 is the compact camera that Nikon expects to be selling in the highest numbers over the coming months. It's aimed at users who want a shirt-pocket-sized camera that makes life simple; so simple, that while there are 18 scene modes to choose from, the S3100 has an Auto Scene Selector mode, so even this can be left to the camera.

Exposure control is limited to compensation (to +/-2 EV in 1/3EV steps) and in Auto mode the sensitivity may be set in the range ISO 80-3200. Predictably, with 14 million effective pixels on a small sensor, the loss of detail at the highest setting means ISO 3200 is best avoided.

With an equivalent focal length of 26-130mm, the S31000's lens has a versatile 5x zoom range, suited for general photography on days out, at social events and so on. In decent light the lens focuses quickly and the Subject Tracking system does a good job of following moving subjects. But with a closest focus of 10cm, this isn't the camera for snapping small details.

Although it has just 230,000 dots, the 2.7-inch LCD provides a clear view of the scene. But it has a narrow viewing angle, so if you like shooting from ground-level you'll have to get your knees dirty.

Image quality is impressive on the whole, and A3 prints are possible at the lower sensitivity settings. The Auto mode does an excellent job in a range of conditions and images from the S3100 are vibrant and attractive.
Angela Nicholson

Nikon
COOLPIX
NIKKOR 5X WIDE OPTICAL ZOOM
1:3.2-6.5

Available in seven colours, the Coolpix S3100 is just 18.4mm thick and has few controls.

>> BACKUP UTILITY

Clickfree Wireless Automatic Backup

£120 A simple backup solution you can rely on?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Storage Appliance
www.clickfree.com

REQUIREMENTS

Capacities: 500GB, 1TB **OS:** OS X 10.5 or later **Processor:** Intel **Dimensions:** 12x12x2cm

PROS & CONS

⊕ Extremely easy to set up
⊕ Scheduled wireless backups
⊖ Sometimes-clunky interface
⊖ Lacks important features

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A great way of preserving valuable data, but niggles keep it from greatness."

The Clickfree Automatic Backup series has an excellent reputation for simplifying the backup process, and now it's gone wireless. Clickfree Wireless Automatic Backup can cover up to 20 compatible PCs or Macs on your wireless network, and you can choose which file types to safeguard.

Available with 500GB or 1TB, Clickfree Wireless Automatic Backup is really easy to set up. Just perform an initial backup and software install using its integrated USB cable, then plug it into the mains and back up wirelessly. A menu bar pull-down lets you manage the device, scheduling backups and restoring files. You can also back up connected drives and even iPods/iOS devices.

Ease of use comes at the cost of configurability. You can't restore recovered files to their original location on your Mac, it won't preserve different versions of an edited document and when the drive's full, it won't automatically delete the oldest files to make room for a new backup. The software application puts an alias on your desktop that reappears on restart every time you delete it, which is especially annoying since the app can be launched from the menu bar anyway, and the interface used to recover backed-up files is clunky too.

Clickfree is a great way to safeguard treasured media and other irreplaceable files, but it should be used alongside rather than instead of a system such as *Time Machine*.
Ian Osborne

clickfree
Wireless Backup

The Clickfree Wireless is made from attractive black plastic and has an integrated USB cable.

The Art Master III looks great - and a little familiar - but looks aren't everything.

Photography: Neil Godwin

>>GRAPHICS TABLET

Hanvon Art Master III

£250 A competitively priced graphics tablet, but is it all style over substance?

Calling your graphics tablet the Art Master certainly sets a high benchmark, especially in a market already dominated by a company like Wacom. With the Intuos4, Wacom not only made several technical leaps forward, they also vastly improved the aesthetics and ergonomics of the graphics tablet. Clearly this didn't go unnoticed at the Hanvon workshop.

But how does the Art Master 3 perform? You can judge a graphics tablet on one key technical feature: sensitivity. Here Hanvon claim to match the Intuos4 surface sensitivity with 2,048 levels of pressure. This can be a very tricky claim to verify, and difficult to determine as a user. In a direct comparison to the Intuos4, and using *Photoshop* brushes we're familiar with, the Art Master seemed to falter too often. However, this felt more like an issue with the pen build and it's nib housing than the tablet's surface tolerance.

Opening the pen stand (in the same way as the Intuos4's) reveals six identical replacement nibs – which is fine if you like the way the nib feels across the tablet's surface, but we would have liked some alternative nibs. Not only that, there's no nib remover, but worry not: the manual suggests you use tweezers to remove worn-down nibs. Yes, tweezers.

> *"Hanvon claims to match the Intuos4 surface sensitivity with 2,048 levels of pressure..."*

These are minor criticisms, and yes, we've been spoilt – the Art Master still has all the functionality of 'that other' graphics tablet. It too has eight programmable express keys, which once set up to suit your requirements, really help speed up your workflow. There's also a jog wheel and pen buttons, but which you can't use if you own a Mac. Actually, that's not entirely true – the jog wheel's been defaulted to moving the canvas up and down, but surely zoom would have been more useful? Hanvon is developing Tablet Setting software for the Mac, but for now it's only PC users who can get full functionality.

At this price a graphics tablet should be a long-term investment and everything should work, but it's just not enough to look the part.

Paul Tysall

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Hanvon
www.hanvon.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 5080lpi **Pressure levels:** 2,048 **Pen eraser:** Yes **Dimensions:** 484x333x12mm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Attractive design
- ⊕ Competitively priced
- ⊖ Restricted functionality
- ⊖ Lacks extra features

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A (slightly) cheaper alternative to the market leader, but has its flaws."

Words: Ian Osborne and Laurence Cable

>> SPEAKER

Logitech Wireless Speaker Z515

£90 www.logitech.com

01 This portable wireless speaker set is bundled with a USB dongle to stream sounds from your Mac. It has a built-in 10-hour rechargeable battery, and is supplied with a carry case for the speakers and mains plug. There's no dock connector, but you can connect your iOS device – or any MP3 player – to its 3.5mm auxiliary input. Although convenient, audio quality is mediocre. There's little bass or stereo separation, and the sound as a whole seems flat and lifeless. There are better portable speaker solutions.

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A convenient wireless speaker set, but let down by average audio."

>> 13-INCH SLEEVE

LA robe I Lov' Paris Case

£30 www.be-ez.com

02 This stylish notebook sleeve features the work of Parisian designer Mathieu Rivière. It's available in three styles – Blue Morning, Sweet Kiss and Montmartre (shown here) – and there are versions for a range of Apple devices, including the iPad. As you'd expect from a be-ez notebook sleeve, the LA robe I Lov' Paris Case is made from low resilience polyurethane with a fleece lining. This gives your MacBook a high degree of protection. Build quality is extremely good, including the sturdy zip. This is a great way to keep your notebook safe when you're out and about.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Attractive and practical, the I Lov' Paris Case looks good and protects your MacBook well."

>> A/V CABLE

SYNAPS AV Cable USB

£30 www.synaps.uk.com

03 This handy cable lets you connect your iPod, iPhone or iPad to a stereo, projector or TV, so you can enjoy your music on your household sound system and your videos on a large screen. It also includes a USB plug, so you can use it as a charger and/or sync cable too. When watching videos, your TV is blank until the movie starts, then the picture is transferred from the iOS device to the big screen. It can't be used for gaming, but it can handle video from YouTube, iPod Video, Photos slideshows, Air Video and iPlayer. Being composite video, it won't support HD resolution.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A versatile and useful addition to your iPhone kit bag, but lacks HD support."

>> iPAD LOCK

Protective Lockable Cover/Lock

£54 www.applelocks.com

04 In an ideal world, you'd never leave your iPad lying around unattended, but that isn't always possible. This plastic case enables you to lock down your iPad with the included Kensington lock, preventing thieves from nabbing it while your back's turned. There's a built-in stand, but it's far from beautiful. It's also expensive and by no means infallible – someone could break the case open. But it's like that steering lock on your car; it should at least make the would-be thief think twice.

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"It's costly, but it'll give you peace of mind that your iPad can't be easily snaffled."

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>>MULTIMEDIA TOOLKIT

Roxio Toast 11 Titanium

£85 Can this new version of Roxio's disc burner and media manager persuade you to upgrade?

KEY INFO

Developer: Roxio (Sonic Solutions)
www.roxio.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel only **OS:** OS X 10.5 or later **RAM:** 1 GB **Disk space:** 1GB for all components

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Faster and more streamlined
- ⊕ Interface far more intuitive
- ⊕ Great new features
- ⊕ Very comprehensive
- ⊕ Bargain Pro version
- ⊖ Fickle VIDEO_TS conversion

VERDICT

★★★★½

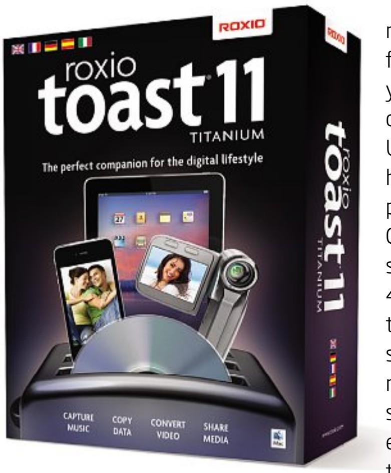
"A feature-packed update to one of the Mac's essential applications. Worth a look even if you already use Toast 10."

Roxio's *Toast* has come a long way from its disc-burning roots. Today it's a versatile multimedia toolkit that lets you burn, capture, copy, convert and share your digital media, quickly and easily. This expanded brief is reflected in the application's icon, which for the first time has an optical disc in only one toaster slot; the other holds an iPhone 4. But while *Toast* has long been a near-essential application for Mac users, the last couple of versions struggled to make a convincing case for upgrading if you already had the previous one. Can *Toast 11 Titanium* break the mould and appeal to existing users as well as newbies?

Owners of PowerPC-based Macs are spared the choice. *Toast 11* is Intel only, an entirely predictable move considering how poorly supported *Toast 10* was on PPCs. But if you've an Intel Mac running Leopard or later, the new app brings a wealth of functional and under-the-hood improvements. It's been rebuilt from the ground up, with a streamlined interface and a faster, more efficient operation.

Media browser

Toast 11's media browser is now part of the main user interface, but you can pop it out as a separate window if you wish. Project categories are listed at the top of the main screen, with the number of copies and drive selection at its foot instead of on a separate pop-up window. Fewer processes make for a more streamlined experience. Support for multiple disc burners has been added, and updates are done from within the app. You no longer have to log onto the Roxio website and tediously download the entire suite every time a new version is released.



The brand-new features in Roxio Toast 11 Titanium burst out of the box.

Toast's video conversion feature now supports a wider range of playback devices than ever before. There are presets to convert footage for Apple TV, Video iPod, iOS devices, most popular games consoles and non-Apple mobile devices such as the BlackBerry or Palm Pre. Alternatively, you can save it out in a specific file format such as H.264, MPEG-4, WMV, MKV and more. You can make changes to preset profiles and save them as custom settings. The media browser now integrates with *Adobe Lightroom* as well as *iPhoto* and *Aperture*, and outside the browser, you can just drag and drop a file into the main *Toast* window.

If you have a Mac with CUDA-compatible NVIDIA graphics (most recent NVIDIA cards support this), a feature called VideoBoost speeds up your H.264 conversions. *Toast* is still compatible with Elgato's Turbo.264 USB hardware accelerator too. If you have one plugged in, it takes precedence over VideoBoost. Converting *MacFormat's* five-minute sample movie to best-quality iPhone 4 video on a 2.0GHz iMac (not CUDA) took *Toast 11* six minutes, 36 seconds, but with Turbo.264, it managed it in three minutes, 34 seconds. Rival app *Handbrake*, encoding using its iPhone 4 preset, took 11 minutes, eight seconds.

Scheduled conversions

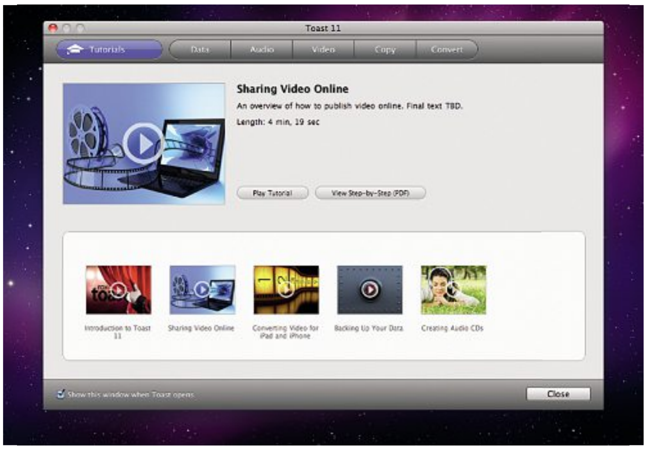
Scheduled conversions make their *Toast* debut. You can now set your video conversions to start at a specific time and date, or after a countdown set in hours and minutes. This is useful if you want to run them during the night, or at other times when you're not using your Mac for other things. Videos can also be encoded and posted directly to your Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo accounts and tweet video links through Twitter – useful features for those who wish to share their home movies.

> *"If you've an Intel Mac running Leopard or later, the app brings a wealth of functional and under-the-hood improvements"*

You can extract specific video or audio files from an unprotected DVD or VIDEO_TS folder, and even embed subtitles into your conversions. Unfortunately, this proved fickle in execution. Some VIDEO_TS folders converted correctly, others failed to convert at all and one actually crashed the application. We hope future updates will expand compatibility, as it's a great feature when it works.

Toast 11 lets you set video chapter markers manually as well as at preset intervals. With a £15 HD/BD Plug-in, you can create hi-definition discs

Roxio Toast now has a series of video tutorials and PDFs to take you through its key features.



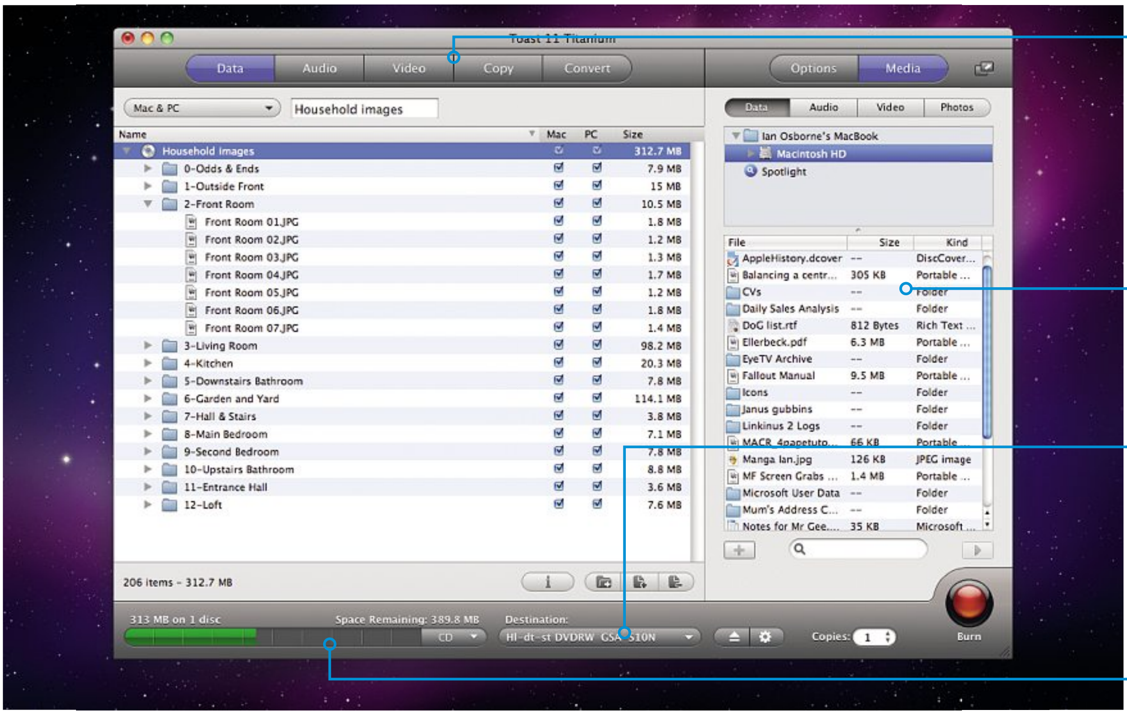
Sharing Video Online

An overview of how to publish video online. Final text TBD.

Length: 4 min, 19 sec

☑ Show this window when Toast opens

QUICK LOOK / Getting to grips with Toast 11 Titanium



Mac & PC
Household images

Name	Mac	PC	Size
Household Images	☑	☑	312.7 MB
0-Odds & Ends	☑	☑	7.9 MB
1-Outside Front	☑	☑	15 MB
2-Front Room	☑	☑	10.5 MB
Front Room 01.JPG	☑	☑	1.8 MB
Front Room 02.JPG	☑	☑	1.2 MB
Front Room 03.JPG	☑	☑	1.3 MB
Front Room 04.JPG	☑	☑	1.7 MB
Front Room 05.JPG	☑	☑	1.2 MB
Front Room 06.JPG	☑	☑	1.8 MB
Front Room 07.JPG	☑	☑	1.4 MB
3-Living Room	☑	☑	98.2 MB
4-Kitchen	☑	☑	20.3 MB
5-Downstairs Bathroom	☑	☑	7.8 MB
6-Garden and Yard	☑	☑	114.1 MB
7-Hall & Stairs	☑	☑	3.8 MB
8-Main Bedroom	☑	☑	7.1 MB
9-Second Bedroom	☑	☑	7.8 MB
10-Upstairs Bathroom	☑	☑	8.8 MB
11-Entrance Hall	☑	☑	3.6 MB
12-Loft	☑	☑	7.6 MB

206 items – 312.7 MB

313 MB on 1 disc
Space Remaining: 389.8 MB
CD
Destination: HI-dt-st DVDRW GSA S10N
Copies: 1

Ian Osborne's MacBook
Macintosh HD
Spotlight

File	Size	Kind
AppleHistory.dcover	--	DiscCover...
Balancing a centr...	305 KB	Portable ...
CVs	--	Folder
Daily Sales Analysis	--	Folder
DoG list.rtf	812 Bytes	Rich Text ...
Ellerbeck.pdf	6.3 MB	Portable ...
EyeTV Archive	--	Folder
Fallout Manual	9.5 MB	Portable ...
Icons	--	Folder
Janus gubbins	--	Folder
Linkinus 2 Logs	--	Folder
MACR_4papetuto...	66 KB	Portable ...
Manga Ian.jpg	126 KB	JPEG image
MF Screen Grabs ...	1.4 MB	Portable ...
Microsoft User Data	--	Folder
Mum's Address C...	--	Folder
Notes for Mr Gee....	35 KB	Microsoft ...

Project categories
Burn data, video or audio discs, do a straightforward disc copy or convert video or audio data.

Media browser
The media browser is now integrated into the main window, in a sidebar.

Drive pull-downs and buttons
A menu selects the drive and the buttons show options.

Space gauge
Select the media you're recording to, and see how much space remains to fill.

using a standard DVD, for playback on a Blu-ray player. A new feature also lets you view these discs on your Mac within the application. It's much easier to create a video/ROM hybrid DVD too. As before, you can add front-end menus to your DVD video discs, but you still can't manually position the buttons.

A new audio-burning feature spans tracks across several discs, with markers indicating where one disc's contents ends and another begins. These markers are placed automatically, but can be manually repositioned, and you can add more if you wish. Audio CDs have a 99-track limit, however they're created. Unfortunately, this limitation still applies when you're spanning your music over several discs with *Toast* 11, though we're promised it will rise to 200 tracks with the pending *Toast* 11.0.1 update.

Help is at hand

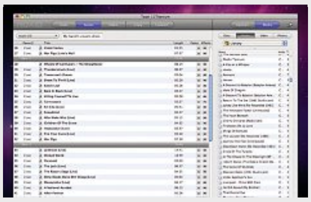
If all this seems a little daunting, Toast Assistant brings you several online tutorial videos that explain the app's key features. You can download step-by-step instructions as PDF documents too.

As is usual for a *Toast* suite, several other applications are included. A redesigned *Spin Doctor* can now capture audio from a single running application, so if an email or instant message arrives while you're recording, the incoming alert sound isn't captured. Other bundled apps include *DiscCatalogMaker*, *Get Backup 2* and *Disc Cover 3*. The £125 *Toast 11 Pro* also contains *Adobe Photoshop Elements 9*, *Boinx FotoMagico 3 RE*, *BIAS SoundSoap 2 SE*, *SmartSound Sonicfire Pro* and the *HD/BD Plug-in*. This turns out to be a real bargain, when you consider *Photoshop Elements 9* alone costs almost £80.

Previous *Toast* updates have been criticised as offering precious little reason to upgrade if you have the previous version. Those criticisms end now. *Toast 11 Titanium's* streamlined interface, expanded feature set and online tutorials mean it's definitely worth considering, even if you're an existing user. Only its difficulties converting VIDEO_TS folders stopped it getting that coveted fifth star.

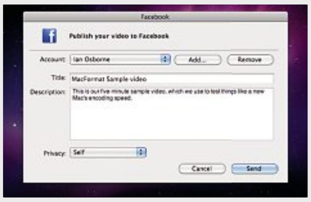
Ian Osborne

TOP 3 FEATURES / Brand new to Toast 11



Audio CD spanning

Data disc spanning has long been a *Toast* feature, but now it's come to audio discs. If you add too many tracks for one disc to the main window, movable breaks are added showing where one disc ends and another begins.



Online sharing

Another new feature in *Toast 11* – you can now encode videos for Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo, and automatically publish them to your account. You can even have *Toast* automatically tweet a link to your Twitter followers.

In-app video editing

With *Toast 11* you can edit, crop and trim your videos within the application, include automatic or manually placed chapter markers, and even add audio sound effects. You can preview your video before converting or burning.

>> VECTOR DRAWING TOOL

Mapdiva Artboard 1.0

£12 Another vector editor to worry Adobe?

KEY INFO

Developer: Mapdiva
http://mapdiva.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Decent drawing tools
- ⊕ Surprisingly useful clip art
- ⊖ Styles awkward to apply
- ⊖ Lack of import options

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

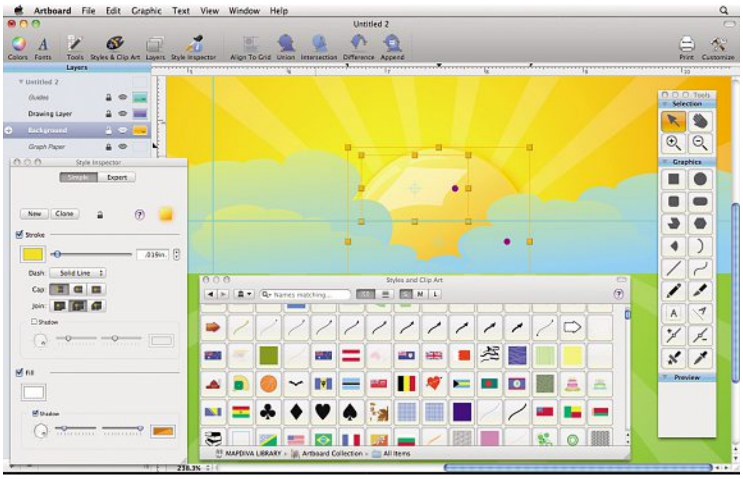
"A decent stab at a vector artwork app, but some features need improving."

With *Sketch*, *DrawIt* and *VectorDesigner*, the budget vector graphics market is surprisingly crowded on the Mac. *Artboard* undercuts its rivals on price, and mostly lives up to its claim of being simple and direct, but there are a few major shortcomings that take the edge off the product.

When it comes to getting content onto the canvas, *Artboard* is slick. You get the usual object tools and a ton of clip art and pre-made styles. Professionals might baulk at the idea of ready-mades, but though most are basic, many are useful (such as flags, maps and icons), and the feature seems suited to vector amateurs or the time-poor. Object manipulation is generally simple and the app's performance is strong, but the immature nature of *Artboard* is regularly betrayed by its interface.

We found the inconsistency of data provision troubling: some settings (such as a regular polygon's sides) are in contextual menus, some (rotation, radii) only appear in tooltips, and the Styles Inspector is awkward to use and space-inefficient. These things make *Artboard* less suitable than it should be for precise vector work, and we hope to see a more useful *iWork*-like Inspector in a future update; the lack of import options is also an issue. Still, given its general usability and low price, *Artboard* is worth a look.

Graig Grannell



Artboard includes a bunch of surprisingly useful clip-art items for vector-based application.

>> VIDEO BROADCASTING SOFTWARE

BoinxTV Home

£30 Live studio software at a bargain price

KEY INFO

Developer: Boinx
www.boinx.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 **Processor:** Intel Mac **RAM:** 2GB **Video:** Discrete graphics card

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Powerful pro features
- ⊕ Bargain price
- ⊕ Clear, informative interface
- ⊖ Max output a bit small

VERDICT

★★★★☆

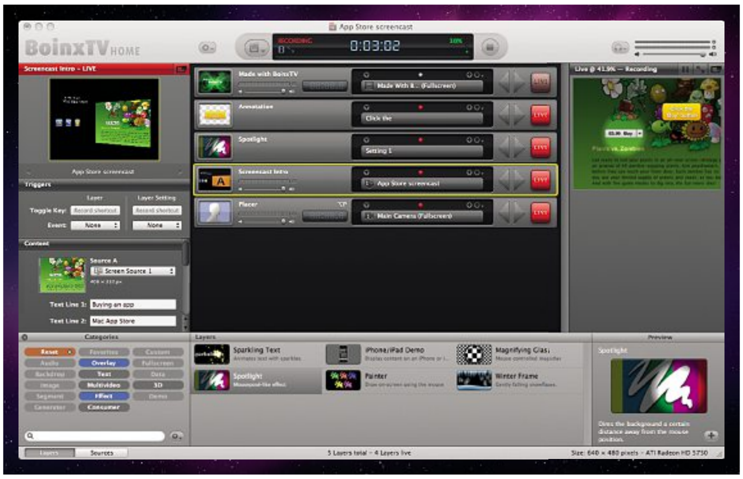
"It boasts almost all the features of the full version at a fraction of the price."

We reviewed *BoinxTV*'s full version back in *MF209* and found that it was a powerful home studio setup. It uses a system of layers to control multiple camera feeds and enables you to insert pre-recorded footage and add graphic overlays to a live video broadcast. That version is £300 on the Mac App Store, while this cut-back *Home* version is just £30. You might be expecting a lot of missing features for that kind of reduction, but actually most of the power is still present, including features such as chroma keying and screen capture.

The limitations are that you can't have more than one live camera source, the maximum output resolution is 960x540 and you can only have 15 layers simultaneously. The layer limit won't bother most people, and we doubt the camera limit will either; nevertheless, the resolution's disappointing.

The interface is *BoinxTV Home*'s most impressive feature. It's powerful but clear, with your inputs and variables on the left, layers in the middle and live output on the right. There's no editing of recorded footage, so you may well need to use *iMovie* in conjunction with it. In fact, Apple's Themes can replicate some of what *BoinxTV* does, but not with live footage, and *BoinxTV*'s features in this area far outstrip *iMovie*'s once you get into it. Combine the two and you have a powerful studio package.

Matthew Bolton



The screencasting feature enables you to broadcast part of your desktop in BoinxTV Home.

>> ONLINE BACKUP TOOL

Mozy Home

£4.99 per month, Mozy, the online backup service, reveals a new version of its software

Mozy has recently updated its popular online backup service and it's had a few tweaks, mainly under the hood. The main improvements are faster backup and restore operations and an easier-to-use interface.

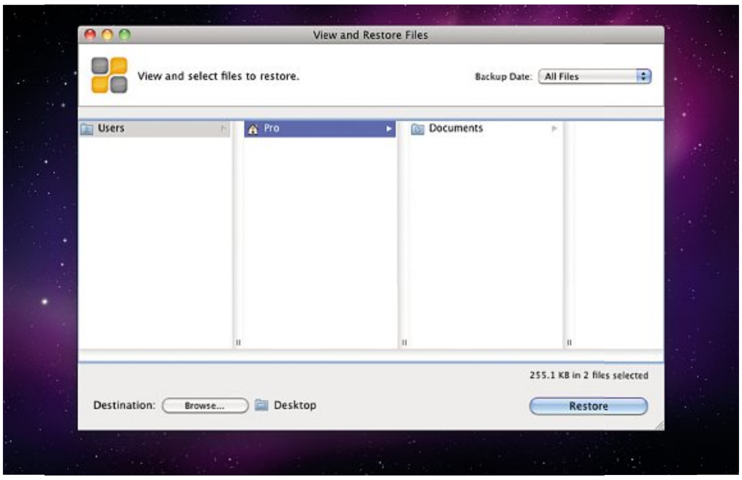
Installing and using Mozy is very Mac-like. Once you've installed it and chosen your options everything happens in the background, much like *Time Machine*. Obviously, an initial backup takes lots of time if you have multiple gigabytes to upload, but once it's done the additional backup is fast and, most importantly, invisible.

You can get into the software and tinker about with what gets backed up and how much of your bandwidth to use, but if you're happy to just let Mozy work, it does so with minimal fuss. Restoring your data is a similarly easy process.

A few times when doing our initial backup, web browsing was a bit jittery with video and the like, but there wasn't any genuine evidence that Mozy was the reason. To see where you are with your backup progress it's a simple case of clicking on the Mozy icon in the toolbar. You can get to the application through the *System Preferences* pane too, if you'd prefer not to clog up your toolbar.

All the data transferred is encrypted for your security and the data centres – where your data is actually held – have the same levels of encryption as a well as serious physical security.

All of this comes with the caveat that Mozy is about to put a cap on the monthly upload limit for home accounts and charge extra for more storage. Previously, accounts had been completely unlimited. At the time of writing, Mozy couldn't tell us exactly what the UK prices were, but the new pricing model stands at $5.99 (£3.70) a month for 50GB of storage for one computer, or $9.99 (£6.15) a month for 125GB of storage for up to three computers. To add a machine costs a further $2 (£1.25) a month and each additional 20GB costs $2 (£1.25) as well.


View and Restore Files

View and select files to restore.

Backup Date: All Files

Users ▸ Pro ▸ Documents

255.1 KB in 2 files selected

Destination: Desktop

Restoring your files is simple with Mozy – just pick them from a window and click Restore.

> *"Mozy has recently updated its popular online backup service and it's had a few tweaks, mainly under the hood"*

As well as the Home edition, there's a Pro version that has a slightly different pricing structure and a more comprehensive support service. A Pro account costs £3.99 a month per machine and 50p per gigabyte per month.

If you're not sure about the service, Mozy does offer a free 2GB account that you can use for backup or storage. This service is available even if you choose not to upgrade to one of Mozy's paid-for options.

The competition is still offering unlimited backups, but Mozy argues that when users go above a certain amount the service is automatically throttled and becomes too slow to use reliably. Mozy also argues that the limits it has set in place will affect only a few users. Naturally, if competitors such as CrashPlan or Carbonite follow suit then this makes Mozy a touch more competitive, but on the whole it's harder to recommend Mozy, even when taking into account its claim of bandwidth throttling and poor service from other companies that offer unlimited backup services.

The Mozy software and service is undeniably good. From installation to first use, even the newest Mac users shouldn't find too many hurdles. However, the coming limitations to Mozy's service may just give you pause for thought.

Christopher Brennan

KEY INFO

Developer: Mozy
http://mozy.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

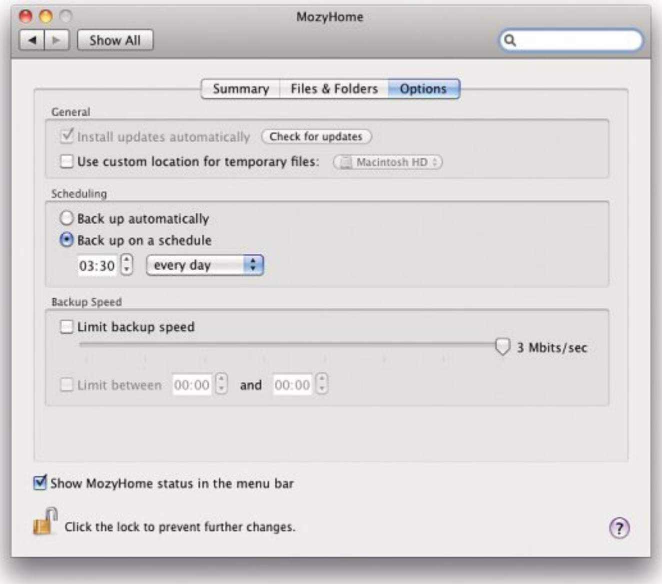
- ➕ Simple backup procedure
- ➕ Restoring files is easy
- ➕ 30-day versioning
- ➕ Works in the background
- ➕ Easy to manage settings
- ➖ Limited storage

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"The software is good, but with a limited amount of storage, Mozy is hit by a competitive disadvantage."

You can manually limit the amount of bandwidth you use to back up your files simply and effectively.


MozyHome

General
☑ Install updates automatically
☐ Use custom location for temporary files: Macintosh HD

Scheduling
○ Back up automatically
● Back up on a schedule
03:30 every day

Backup Speed
☐ Limit backup speed 3 Mbits/sec
☐ Limit between 00:00 and 00:00

☑ Show MozyHome status in the menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

>> LAUNCHER

Alfred 0.8.1

£Free/£12 Search and launch at a key press

KEY INFO

Developer: Running with Crayons
http://alfredapp.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Generally usable interface
- ⊕ Free version beats Spotlight
- ⊕ Fast and resource-light
- ⊖ Some functions a little limited

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"An elegant and usable take on an advanced keyboard-based launcher."

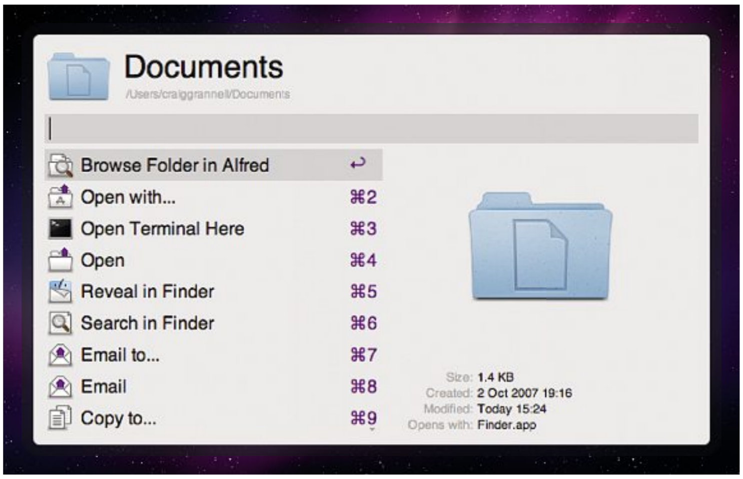
Although Spotlight is baked into OS X, it's a sluggish means of accessing files, and you can't do a great deal with anything once you find it. *Alfred* follows acclaimed launchers *Quicksilver* and *LaunchBar* in providing a launching interface that's more efficient and flexible than Apple's own.

Alfred effectively comes in two versions. The default download (covered in our tutorial on page 62) is free and resembles a souped-up, faster Spotlight. A keyboard shortcut brings up the streamlined interface, and you type to find and launch apps, make web searches, access documents, or perform basic tasks such as calculations and accessing dictionary content. There's a certain amount of configuration available, although the inability to scroll for more results than those in the short list provided is irksome.

Buy the Powerpack add-on and *Alfred* gains advanced features. You can navigate the file system, perform actions on items (copy, move, and so on) from within *Alfred*, control *iTunes* and access your clipboard history. Disappointingly, clipboard access is text-only, although you can at least define custom permanent snippets. We were impressed by *Alfred*'s accuracy in finding items quickly, the elegance of the interface and the Powerpack's *Finder*-oriented actions.

For power users, *LaunchBar* nonetheless remains a better bet – it's a more mature app that you can do more with. But for anyone wanting something simpler (but still more powerful than Spotlight), *Alfred* sits in just that little niche and is therefore worthy of consideration.

Craig Grannell



Documents
/Users/craiggrannell/Documents

Size: 1.4 KB
Created: 2 Oct 2007 19:16
Modified: Today 15:24
Opens with: Finder.app

Buy the Powerpack and Alfred gets advanced features, such as iTunes control and file navigation.

>> TERMINAL EMULATOR

Cathode 0.9.4

$20 (£13) Party like it's 1979… on your Mac screen

Developer: http://secretgeometry.com/apps/cathode

Some Mac users are afraid of *Terminal*, but once all computers were controlled this way, users blinking at green text on flickering CRT displays. *Cathode* enables you to emulate this experience, by applying clever retro effects to a command-line interface.

If you're of a certain age, *Cathode* will provide a warm, nostalgic feeling as you root through its preferences. Several themes are available, aping classic systems, and you can amend the shell's dimensions, cursor and, amusingly, download speed, if you want to pretend you've got a 1982 network connection. The monitor is configurable – presets mimic 70s workstations through to more modern CRTs, and you can fine-tune curvature, burn-in and even distress (flicker, noise) and then save your own theme.

In full-screen mode, *Cathode* is authentic and fun, but we're not sure it's £13's worth of fun. Had *Cathode* been cheaper, we'd have recommended it; as it is, we expect most people will be happy to play with the demo a few times to get a nostalgic fix, before returning to *Terminal* proper.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"An authentic take on vintage terminals, but at this price it's too expensive to recommend."

>> ISOLATION UTILITY

Isolator 4.76beta

£Free Veil those distractions for singular attention

Developer: http://willmore.eu/software/isolator

The next version of Mac OS X, Lion, will introduce a full-screen mode, enabling you to focus on applications in a similar way to when working on iOS devices. For now, *Isolator* is a decent, highly configurable alternative. It doesn't 'force' applications to full-screen mode; instead, it provides ways of hiding whatever's in the background. Using *Isolator*'s preferences, you can define the tint colour and strength of the layer that covers background applications, and you can select a filter, such as 'blur' or 'desaturate'. A system-wide hot-key can be defined to toggle the effect, and you can define whether the Dock and other applications are hidden when *Isolator* is invoked, along with suspending the application when *Finder* is front-most.

In use, *Isolator* is responsive, stable and resource-light. However, it's also a little too restrictive, in that you can't temporarily override isolation effects to, say, bring two apps forward. That said, *Isolator* is free and since it's child's play to turn on and off, it comes recommended if you feel the need to focus more.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A useful, configurable and user-friendly app for helping you focus on your work."

SOLD OUT!

Issue 226
October 2010

99 Snow Leopard secrets
Has Apple killed the mouse?
The artistry of Apple Stores
Set up a Green Screen studio
On the disc
VinylStudio Lite, Sketsa 4.4, BatchWatermarks2 and more

Issue 227
November 2010

Create a family website
Reinventing the Apple TV
How to fake HDR effects
Create your own iPhone app
On the disc
iWeb Themes 8, R10Cypher3 CopperCube 1.4.1 and more

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December 2010

Networking master class
Email clients group test
Mac mini versus an iMac
Smart folders guide
On the disc
AppShelf 1.6, Voila 2.5, Librarian Pro 1.5.2 and more

Issue 229
January 2011

iLife '11 unveiled
OS X Lion preview
MacBook Air reviews
Add tabs to Finder
On the disc
AppDelete 2.2.4, Translate it!, MacCleanse 1.5 and more

SOLD OUT!

Issue 230
February 2011

Apple's music domination
10 cool Mac tricks to try
Off-site backup group test
Print from an iPad or iPhone
On the disc
Calories 2, MacPilot 3.5.6 and Essential Mac Toolkit

Issue 231
March 2011

30 Apple treasures
Voice Control guide
Mac App Store lowdown
Wireless mice group test
On the disc
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Issue 232 / April 2011

Snow Leopard masterclass

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Apple's entrance into sport
Secrets of your Mac keyboard
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Make newsletters in Apple's Pages
Sync files between Macs in SugarSync
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>> FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Darkest of Days

£30 Darkest of Days is a game that's all about time management… but in a more exciting way

KEY INFO

Developer: Virtual Programming
www.deliver2mac.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel 2.16GHz or faster
OS: OS X 10.6.5 or higher **RAM:** 1GB
Video: GeForce 8600, Radeon X1600 or later, 128MB VRAM
Disk space: 5GB
Other: Internet connection

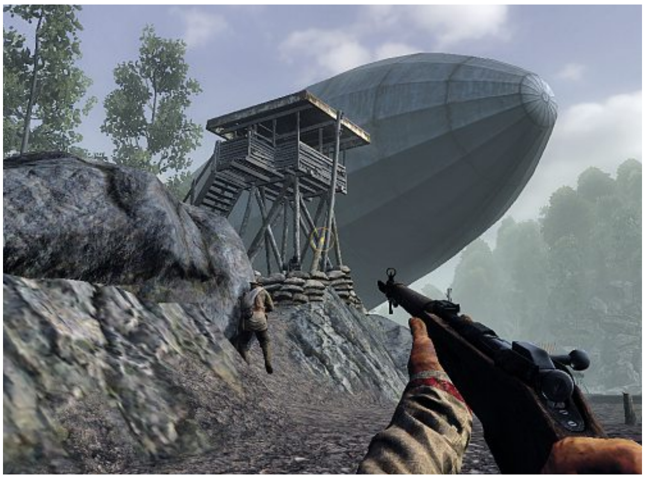
PROS & CONS

- + Fun time-travel premise
- + Interesting weapon upgrades
- + Rarely dull
- − Premise not fully exploited
- − Thick enemies
- − Lacks polish

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"To be honest, it's a bit of a mess in so many ways, but the different time zones and constant action manage to rescue it."

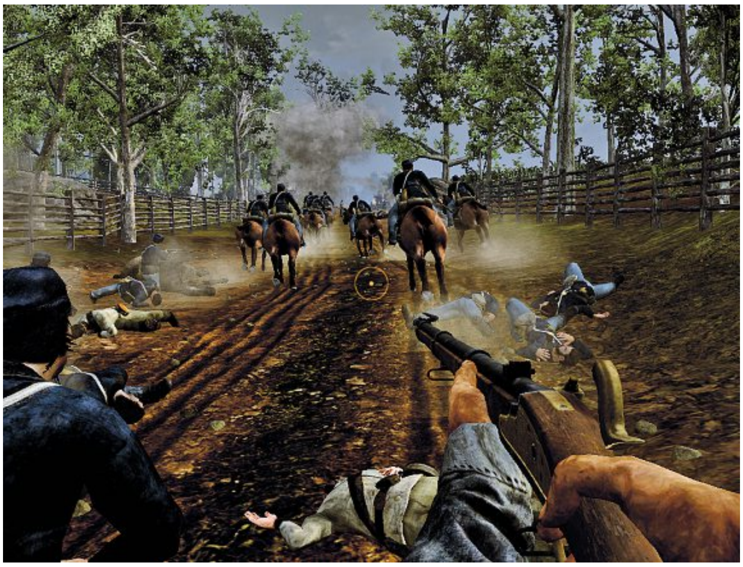


Stealing a Zeppelin is a real highlight of the game. Can anyone smell gas?

You have in your possession technology that enables you to travel through time; where would you go? Back to see the dinosaurs? The birth (or death) of the universe? No? How about three war zones and a disaster area?

That's the rather shaky premise upon which *Darkest of Days* is built. To be fair, the premise itself isn't at fault and the game starts well enough, drawing you immediately into its confusing web of intrigue. You play the part of Alexander Morris, a soldier taking part in General Custer's last stand. Your role in that battle is short lived as you're shot down and close to death. However, just before losing consciousness you're rescued by an oddly attired soldier. On awaking you discover you've been saved by employees of Kronotek, a future corporation that, having discovered the secret of time travel, are now charged with exploring and protecting history.

However, following the disappearance of Kronotek's founder, Dr Koell, and subsequent disruptions in history, it's up to Morris, and his new mentor, Agent Dexter, to travel through time and fix the problem. Unfortunately while they're doing so, they encounter combatants known as The Opposition.



You get to fight on both sides of the Civil War. Which, to be perfectly honest, is a tad fickle.

All of which lays the foundations for an epic first-person shooter of unprecedented historical sweep. Unfortunately, the developers squandered the scope of the plot and all we get is trips to the two World Wars, scuffles during the American Civil War and a last blast in Pompeii.

It's a shame more eras couldn't have been recreated because what's here is actually quite well realised. The graphics engine isn't the most sophisticated, but in terms of detail, colour and atmosphere, the designers have done a sterling job. Weapons from different timelines differ enormously in performance and the ambience of the environments is specific to each era.

> *"It's a shame there are so many rough edges because, in spite of the flaws, Darkest of Days still manages to keep you gripped"*

Care has also been taken to create challenges sympathetic to each time zone and conflict. During the civil war, you'll trudge in formation through cornfields, taking out lurking confederates as you go. The First World War sees you commandeering a Zeppelin. And following capture during WWII, you'll find yourself in the oppressive confines of a POW camp.

The range of weapons adds to the fun. Initially, you'll be using firearms specific to the era. But each time you complete a mission you're able to head back to Kronotek and upgrade, allowing for faster firing and reloads, higher ammo capacity and so on.

Better still, on occasion you're allowed to take future technology into past battles. Another neat touch is some enemies are tagged and appear with a blue glow around them. These chaps must not be killed, just injured, which requires skill.

Unfortunately some battles are spoiled by the stupidity of the enemies and ropey signposting that leaves you unsure of how to proceed.

It's a shame there are so many rough edges because, in spite of the flaws, *Darkest of Days* still manages to keep you gripped. Had it had a little more money and care lavished on it, it could have been something remarkable. As it stands it's merely a quirky diversion.

Andy Dyer

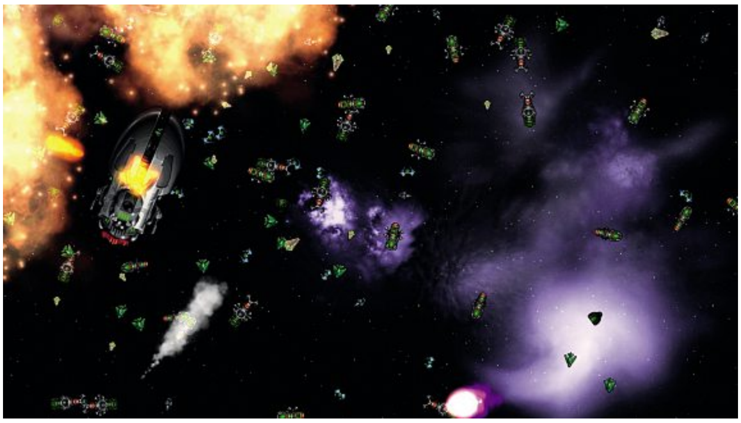
>> STRATEGY

AI War

£12 Grand strategy, RTS or tower defence? AI War is all these things and more

There are independently coded games that go on to be a huge success. But these are few and far between, and usually involve simple and quirky little titles that feature an innovative play mechanic, which has spontaneously sprung from the mind of a bedroom coder. It's rare that lone coders are able to take on the heavyweight publishers at their own game. But that's pretty much what Chris Park has done with *AI War*. A long-time strategy gaming fan, Park, disgruntled by the perceived flaws in existing RTS and 4X game franchises, decided to create a game that he and his buddies could get stuck into. The result is *AI War*, which has struck a chord with masochistic wargamers everywhere.

In the future, or perhaps in another universe altogether, a civil war between human factions is taking a turn. In order to better fight the war, humankind resorted to creating AIs to conduct their battles for them. These AIs began to cooperate and turned against their human creators. To defeat this threat, the previously warring factions have had to become allies and stand united.



Space battles can be pretty lively affairs. But it's not as hard to follow as it might first appear.

> *"Campaigns can take up to 10 hours to play and when you first attempt to dip your toe into AI War's waters you'll be tempted to run"*

This premise allows for some interesting play mechanics. First of all, the idea here is to cooperate against a common enemy so multiplayer games see players working side-by-side rather than head-to-head. In addition, the AI machines are massively more powerful than the human factions, so unlike other strategy games, in which roughly equal sides engage in combat with largely like-for-like units, players here must accept their technological disadvantage and instead try to gain a tactical advantage. *AI War's* complexity (and the fact it comprises elements of RTS, turn-based strategy and tower defence) means a meaningful explanation of the gameplay in the space we have here is impractical. But essentially each campaign is played out on two main screens; the planet and the galaxy. The planet screen displays the system you're currently orbiting, your home command station and other units. The home command station is your centre of operations and key to success or failure. Destroy the AI HCSs and victory is yours. Allow your HCS to be destroyed and it's game over. The broad aims then, are to build defences around your all-important bases of operation, send scouts out into the galaxy to familiarise yourself with other planets to colonise and to locate the enemy AI, and finally to build units that can be sent to engage and destroy the enemy.

Campaigns can take upwards of 10 hours to play and when you first attempt to dip your toe into AI War's icy waters you'll be tempted to run a mile. But through careful, if somewhat tedious, study of the manual, in-game tutorials, online video tutorials and the *AI War* Wiki, you will come to appreciate the game's richness and subtlety. And that's not to say the game is entirely impenetrable. While it doesn't provide the range of stripped-down play options necessary to broaden its appeal to a mainstream audience, there are some intelligently implemented systems that take the pain out of micromanagement. Players can get as involved as they like in the construction, economics and tactical management, but equally, they can opt to simply act as the guiding hand and allow the game to handle construction tasks, and decide the finer details during battles.

It's a staggering achievement. To have created something so richly layered with very few resources (essentially a three-man team) is a minor miracle. But be warned, it's not for ordinary mortals. If that statement merely stiffens your resolve, then this is the game for you.

Andy Dyer

KEY INFO

Developer: Arcen Games

www.steampowered.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OSX 10.5.8 or later

Processor: 1.6GHz Intel

RAM: 1GB **Disk space:** 300MB

PROS & CONS

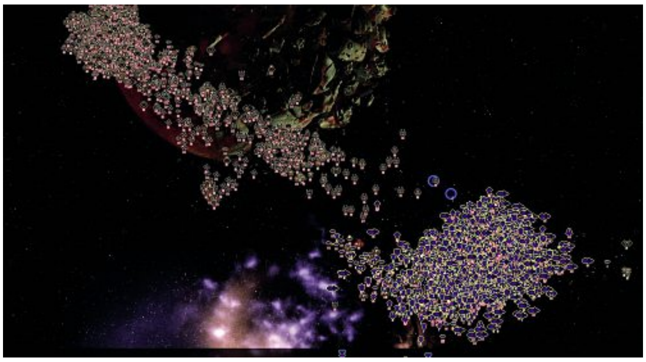
- ⊕ Complex and slow burning
- ⊕ Gaming on an epic scale
- ⊕ Each campaign is a surprise
- ⊕ Rewarding cooperative play
- ⊖ Requires huge time commitment
- ⊖ Presentation is rudimentary

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A staggeringly complex and rich game that will reward the dedication that only hardcore strategy fans can give it."

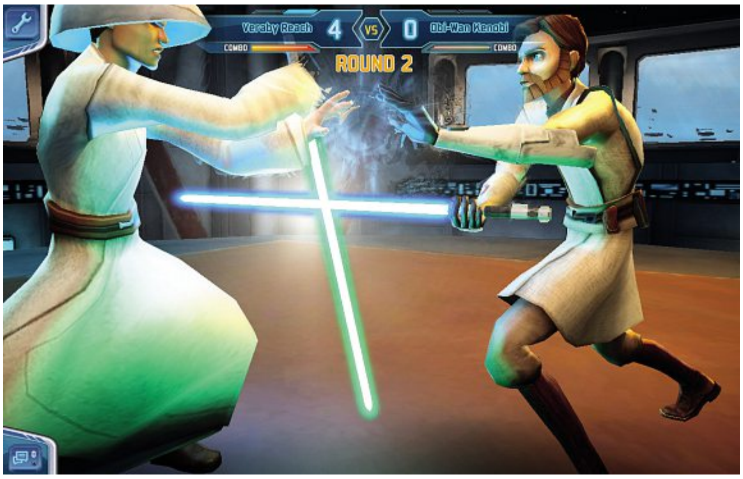
If this sight makes you feel physically sick, AI War is probably not for you.



>> MMO

Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures

£FREE Fans of the animation get some action



Show off your lightsaber skills to Obi Wan. Nice beard Obi, shame about the skirt though.

KEY INFO

Developer: Sony Online Entertainment

www.clonewarsadventures.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X Leopard 10.5.8 or higher

Processor: Intel Core Duo or greater

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks great
- ⊕ Simple chat functions
- ⊕ Loads of mini-games
- ⊕ More content added daily

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Not so much an adventure as a pack of mini-games. But it's fun."

Star Wars Episodes 1-3 might have stunk but they still spawned interesting spin-off projects, not least the *Clone Wars* animated series. In turn, inspiring a new game…

Clone Wars Adventures is aimed at younger players and eschews the usual conventions of exploration, questing and grinding entirely. Instead what you get is a central hub from which you can run around meeting other players and engaging in chat sessions while accessing a number of themed mini-games.

The game is free to play initially, and the amount of content is impressive. Of the 24 mini-games, 13 can be sampled from the start with the rest being unlocked if you choose to subscribe at £3.99 per month or £45 for lifetime membership.

The games vary in terms of entertainment value, but they're consistently well designed and some provide a satisfying and rich gaming experience. There are lightsaber battles; there are *Star Wars*-themed versions of classic games such as *Rocket Rescue*, a *Lunar Lander* homage starring R2-D2; and there are more offerings such as *Republic Defender*, a tower defence game that offers a sophisticated challenge.

The more success you have in the minigames, the more credits you'll earn. It's simple but it's executed with enthusiasm and with this amount of content (and more being added all the time), parents of Padawans would be well advised to take a look.

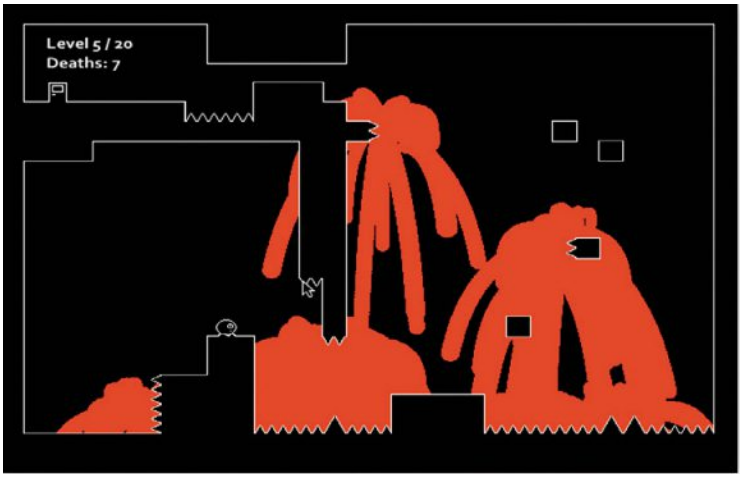
Andy Dyer

>> PLATFORMER

You Probably Won't Make It

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

59p Your only enemy is your own…



It doesn't look much, but this is a game that'll have you hooked, not to mention frustrated…

KEY INFO

Developer: Jesse Venbrux, Uriel Griffin

www.vetragames.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6 or later

Disk space: 8.4MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Cool vector graphics
- ⊕ Old school platforming
- ⊕ Tough challenges
- ⊕ 8-bit soundtrack

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This game will leave you grinding your teeth, but just try to stop playing…"

Deciding to feature this game was, in hindsight, a bit of a mistake. Not because it lacks the quality or entertainment value, but because it's so simple a concept there's little to say about it.

It's a platform game presented in simple vector graphics in which the aim is to get from the start to the finish without dying, rather like the legendary 8-bit grandaddy of platform games, *Manic Miner*.

However, your only obstacles here are tricky jumps and deadly spikes, so it's all about precision. This makes *You Probably Won't Make It* not only one of the most appropriately titled games ever, but extremely difficult, and extremely addictive. Every time you play it's like the game's coder Jesse Venbrux is repeatedly shouting at you to give up. But of course, you don't. You frustratedly keep going in the hope that next time you might finish the level you've spent 147 lives trying to complete.

Worse still, every time you die, your splattered blood remains on the screen to viciously remind you of your past failures. If you like the way this particularly twisted programmer's mind works (and we do, a lot), it's worth checking out some of his other games.

Also on the Mac App store is a neat little physics platform puzzler called *Frozzd* and iPhone owners can try out the new *Mr Karoshi*, in which a disillusioned office worker has to solve puzzles in order to kill himself. Twisted but strangely brilliant.

Andy Dyer

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>> iPAD TV APP

BBC iPlayer

£FREE Live and catch-up TV on your iPad

KEY INFO

Developer: Media Applications Technologies
www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer
Version: 1.0
Works with: iPad, iOS 3.2 or later

PROS & CONS

⊕ Great picture quality
⊕ Lovely interface
⊖ Live TV hidden away
⊖ No downloads

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's worth the wait with its stunning picture quality."

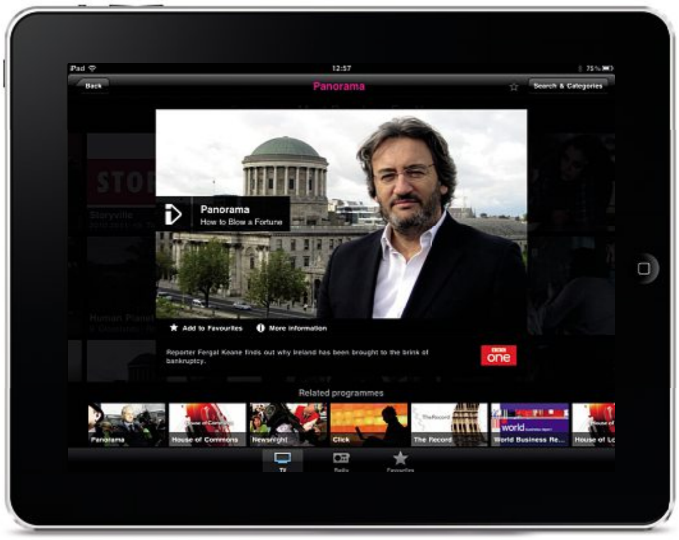
You could sense the excitement in the *MacFormat* offices when the *iPlayer* app appeared. And it's been worth the wait. While you've been able to watch *iPlayer's* catch-up TV in *Safari* for some time, nothing quite beats having a proper app to do it in. Moreover, the app doesn't just provide catch-up services – you can enjoy live TV and radio as well.

The app launches into a gorgeous screen of featured programmes, showing a thumbnail of each show. You can scroll to see more featured television or browse the most popular shows and ones recommended for you. When you tap a programme, you're taken to its information page, which also shows related programmes. Annoyingly, it doesn't tell you which episode of a multi-part series each thumbnail is, which led us to tapping the wrong one several times. And instead of taking us to the previous screen, the Back button returned us to the app's home screen.

Provided your Wi-Fi network has a reasonable connection, picture quality is brilliant, although the app cleverly drops it down when you're on lower bandwidth. Like the iPlayer website on iOS, it won't stream over 3G, you can't download programmes to watch later, and it's UK-only at present.

And despite it being one of the app's main features, live TV is hidden behind the Channels button on the home screen. Let's see a 'What's on now' button in the next version!

Laurence Cable



Reporter Fergal Keane finds out why Ireland has been brought to the brink of bankruptcy.

Browse and enjoy your favourite BBC TV and radio shows in brilliant quality on the iPad's big screen.

>> TABLETOP GAME

TableTopics HD

£2.39 Find out about your mates

Developer: Aloompa **Version:** 1.0.1
Works with: iPad, iOS 3.2 or later

TableTopics is a great way to get to know people better, whether that's your new neighbours, hot date or lifelong friends. Pop the iPad on your table and the app presents you with a succession of questions that reveal more about those gathered around. There are different sets of questions depending on the occasion, though the price only includes a starter set and happy hour. First date, in-flight, gourmet and green sets are available as in-app purchases for £1.79.

The app is slick and nicely animated and could lead to some interesting discoveries.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A fun way to find out about your mates, but a shame about the in-app purchases and some bland questions."

>> COPY UTILITY

AirPaste

£FREE Copy and paste on iOS

Developer: Loutjie Coetzee **Version:** 1.0.0
Works with: iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, iOS 4.2 or later

Ever had text or images on your iPhone that you want to copy to your iPad, or a friend's iPod touch? This app does away with emailing stuff between devices and uses Bluetooth instead, so make sure it's turned on. To copy text from your iPad to your iPhone, simply copy the words on the iPad and open the app on both devices. Tap the Send Paste To button and the app will find the iPhone, where you'll be prompted to accept the connection. With the content received, paste it to its destination.

The connection can be flaky sometimes, but restarting the app tends to solve matters.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A useful way to copy between iPods, iPhones and iPads. Add this app to your arsenal now."

>> TO-DO LIST MANAGER

Do It (Tomorrow) HD

£1.19 Your list of things to do

Developer: Adylitica, Inc. **Version:** 1.4.3
Works with: iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, iOS 3.0 or later

Keeping a daily to-do list is all very well, but there will be things you don't get done. And when you move to tomorrow's page, you'll probably forget about the jobs you didn't do today. This app enables you to bump jobs to the next day, so they'll never slip your mind.

The app's simple – two pages (today and tomorrow) and a list of tasks. You can sync your to-dos between devices using the free cloud service. The app focuses on doing one thing well, and succeeds. It looks good, too.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

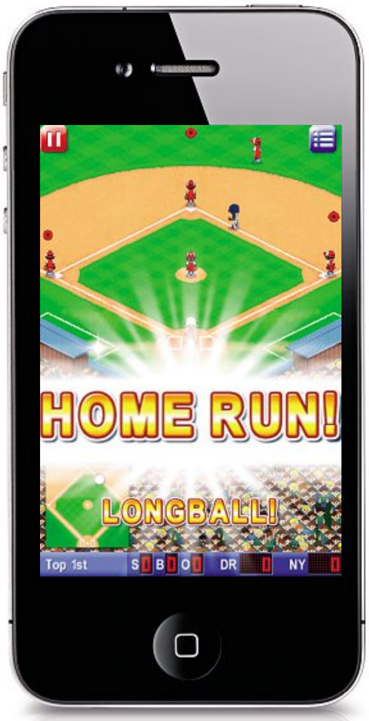
★★★★☆

"The app that lets you put off until tomorrow what you didn't do today."

>> SPORTS

Big Hit Baseball

£1.19 Fancy a cheap and cheerful game of American cricket?



KEY INFO

Developer: Eidos Interactive
Version: 1.0.0
Works with: iPhone, iPod touch iPad, iOS 2.2.1 or later

PROS & CONS

- + Cute looks
- + Great controls
- + Fast and fun
- – No multiplayer

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"As a distillation of the most fun parts of baseball, this is hard to fault."

Although baseball seems glamorous and exciting, it's essentially the US version of cricket with the tedium removed. That's why games such as this one are a good idea – they concentrate on the fun parts like hitting balls, throwing balls, and catching balls.

Big Hit Baseball provides a roster of 20 teams from the US and Japan, and once you've chosen your favourite you can dive straight into one of three available knockout tournaments.

Playing the game is simple, but the controls have been well implemented. When batting, you use a swipe to determine the direction in which to hit the ball and use timing to dictate whether you hit it high or low. If you're pitching, you can use a swipe to decide the speed and direction of the pitch and you can even swipe in an arc to bend the pitch. As for fielding, all you have to worry about is catching, tapping a fielder to jump for a catch or swiping in order to dive toward the ball.

It's a brilliant setup, allowing for accurate placement of the ball when both pitching and batting. There's little more to it than that, except the added bonus of being able to keep track of the trophies you've won and your career statistics. Perhaps more depth on the fielding side and multiplayer options would make it a more nourishing experience but it is, after all, a casual game, and a very enjoyable one at that.

Andy Dyer

>> BEAT-'EM-UP

Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3

£2.99 Not as ultimate as the title suggests…

KEY INFO

Developer: Electronic Arts Nederland B.V.
Version: 1.0.51
Works with: iPad

PROS & CONS

- + Great special moves
- + Fun combat
- – Weird graphics update
- – Not enough characters

VERDICT

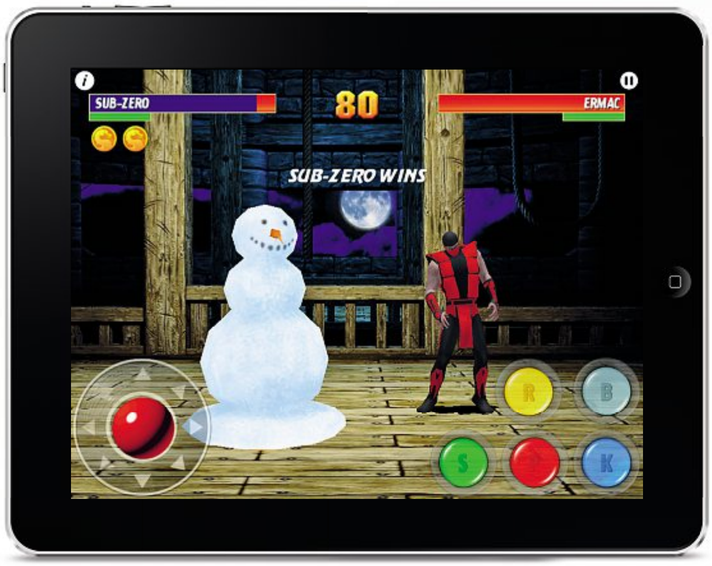
★★★☆☆

"It's fun but still an incomplete experience."

We're suckers for a bit of retro gaming, and so we're pleased that iOS has been responsible for bringing a raft of classic old games back into the hands of those who enjoyed them the first time around.

However (and call us old fashioned), when we see an old gem appearing on the iPad, we want it just the way we remember it – preferably emulated well – with big fat pixels.

Unfortunately, EA has seen fit to take *Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3*, strip out the old digitised characters and re-render the whole thing in 3D. The effect is a bit odd because to keep the gameplay true to the original version the animations remain fairly crude. If you're going to update the game, either develop a whole new one or just give us the arcade-perfect original, not some weird hybrid.



Sub Zero pulls off an amusing move. Aw bless! It's not quite how we remember it though…

The gameplay is spot on. Aside from the problems of playing a beat-'em-up using touch controls, this plays just like the original, with all the gore and special moves we've come to know and love over the years.

In addition there are several play modes, including arcade, survival, Shao Karnage and the option to play against someone else over a Wi-Fi network or on the same iPad.

However, there are other problems, chiefly the lack of playable characters. While all your favourites are present, the roster features only half the original cast, making rather a nonsense of the game's 'Ultimate' status.

UMK3 is a fun beat-'em-up, but it's in no way the definitive version and genuine fans of the original will feel slightly short-changed.

Andy Dyer

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Dedicated camcorders still retain a niche in the modern world of mobile multi-function devices.

Words: Ali Jennings **Photography:** Gavin Roberts

Camcorders under £350

We take a look at six mid-range camcorders for the best balance between size, quality and price

With most phones, compact cameras and of course SLRs offering video recording, you have to wonder if there's still a place for a dedicated camcorder; even more so when you consider that in most cases these devices shoot HD video. Fortunately for the camcorder, in most cases the design and primary use of these other gadgets means either that they're lacking in features or need a high level of skill to turn out even mediocre results. So the purpose-made camcorder really is the way to go if you want to film decent-quality footage with minimal fuss.

When it comes to buying one, the first thing you'll notice is that unlike the flooded compact camera market your choice is pretty limited, and once you've had a good think about features, price and of course looks, you'll normally only have a couple of choices left. But is there a great deal of difference between a camcorder costing £250 and one at £350, especially when the specifications and features of those two models seem surprisingly similar?

> *"The purpose-made camcorder really is the way to go if you want to film decent-quality footage"*

We're looking at camcorders around the £300 price mark, which include full HD, stereo audio, memory card recording and direct playback through HDMI; some offer features that will enable the most novice filmmaker to create professionally styled movies. »

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

To keep up with the storage demands of HD, there are now three main types of SD card: standard SD with a capacity of up to 2GB; SDHC (High Capacity) with up to 32GB; and more recently, SD XC (Extended Capacity), with a maximum capacity of 2TB.

» SUB-£350 CAMCORDERS / At a glance

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Price	360	342	250	297	300	250
Manufacturer	Canon	Panasonic	Samsung	Sanyo	Sony	Toshiba
Website	www.canon.co.uk	www.panasonic.co.uk	www.samsung.com/uk	http://uk.sanyo.com	www.sony.co.uk	www.toshiba.co.uk
Memory card format	32GB internal / SD / SDHC	SDXC / SDHC / SD	SD / SDHC	SDXC / SDHC / SD	Memory Stick PRO DUO Mark II / SD / SDHC	SD / SD HC / SD XC
Resolution	1920x1080	1920x1080	1920x1080	1920x1080	1920x1080	1920x1080
Dimensions	D: 124 H: 64 W: 60	D:109.0 W: 51.5 H: 59.0	D: 111.95 H: 58.5 W: 59.3	D: 117.9 H: 59.2 W: 42.8	D: 106 H: 56 W: 50	D: 110.5 H: 55.4 W: 33
Weight	270g	192g	271.4g	234g	210g	151.5g
LCD screen size	2.7-inch	2.7-inch	2.7-inch	2.7-inch	2.7-inch	2.7-inch
Recording format	AVCHD	AVCHD	MPEG4 (H.264)	MPEG-4 AVC / H.264	MPEG4-AVC / H.264	MPEG4 (H.264)
Video lamp	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

The Samsung is adept at swift focus and exposure adjustment.

TEST ONE

Recording

All state HD, but are they really up to high-def quality?

When someone says HD then you instantly think cinematic, high-quality video footage with big sound. But in the more realistic world HD only refers to the resolution of the device. All six camcorders here feature full HD at 1920x1080. The Panasonic SD80 and Sony HDR-CX115E both record good natural colour, with fast auto-exposure and focus. Sound quality captured from their front mounted microphones is good and picks out vocals while limiting the ambient noise. Both the Sanyo and Toshiba record vibrant footage, although quality was noticeably less when compared with the others in test. These two cameras also take longer for the exposure and focus to settle when moved around. The Canon Legria HF R18 and Samsung H200 both perform well visually, and focus and exposure adjust swiftly, but audio for both don't match that produced by the other two. The Canon's sound can be marred by wind noise.

TEST RESULTS

Canon	★★★☆☆
Panasonic	★★★★★
Samsung	★★★★☆
Sanyo	★★☆☆☆
Sony	★★★★★
Toshiba	★★☆☆☆

TEST TWO

Features

Packed with features, but are they essential?

The most notable features of these cameras are their touch screens and shooting modes. The Panasonic SD80 comes in top of the group, including iA (intelligent Auto) and built-in video lamp. Footage for all camcorders is stored on SD HC or SD XC cards, while all but the Toshiba, which uses H.264, capture their footage in the AVCHD format. The Canon features an automatic lens cover, cleverly protecting from dirt. The quality of the LCD screens varies – the Canon is a disappointment for the price, while the Sony's, on the other hand, gives a good representation of what you're capturing. All camcorders have the ability to shoot stills and the quality of the images produced is better than you'd expect from a camera phone. But due to the lack of flash or control, quality is less than you'd expect from a good compact camera. When it comes to viewing your footage, all cameras feature a standard HDMI cable link that fits into your TV.

TEST RESULTS

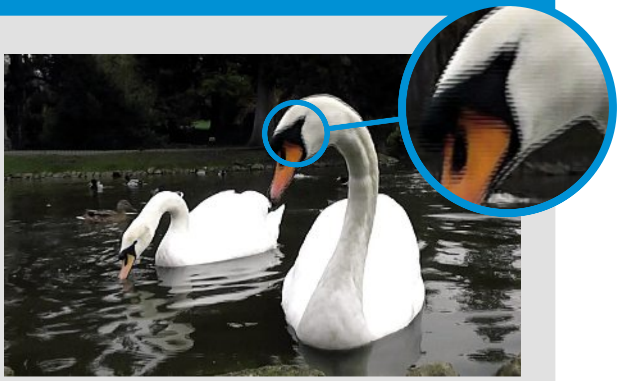
Canon	★★★★☆
Panasonic	★★★★★
Samsung	★★★☆☆
Sanyo	★★★☆☆
Sony	★★★★☆
Toshiba	★★★☆☆

The Canon's LCD screen is a little bit of a disappointment.

HOW WE TESTED / Key qualities examined

We filmed several different scenes and conditions. Each camcorder is aimed at the point-and-shoot market, so key qualities should be ease of use, both when filming and viewing footage, quality of video capture and audio quality.

Each test starts out of the box, setting up and shooting using default settings. For the camcorders that allow adjustment, we test how easy it is to locate these functions, using the buttons mounted on the body or through the menu screens. To test image quality and the cameras' ability to compensate for changes in light and colour temperature, we film a busy street scene, moving from shade to sunlight to see how quickly colour and exposure adjusts. Frame rate is tested by using each camera to pan with wildlife, capturing low-level action. Each camera is also tested in lower light conditions. To test for audio we record a vocal piece to camera; this is done in different situations to see if vocals become drowned out by ambient noise. Finally, footage from each camera is played through an LG 32-inch TV.



The footage of the swans shows how the camcorders coped with fast movement and high contrast situations. (Screen source: Panasonic.)

»TEST THREE

Handling

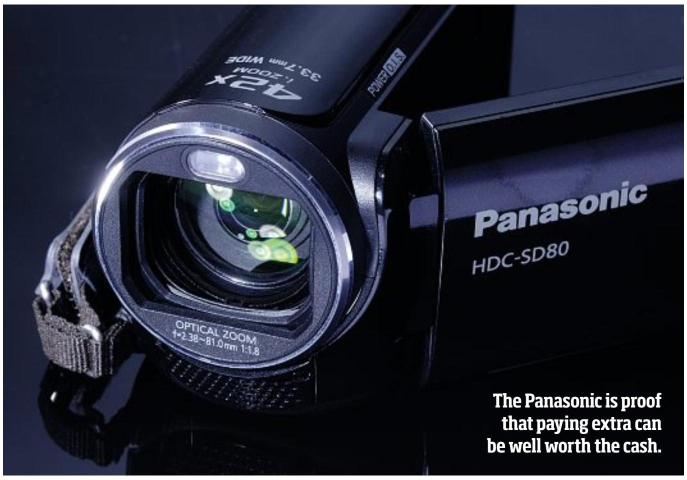
Small and lightweight – but comfortable to use?

All the camcorders are small, with the Toshiba Camileo SX900 just beating the Sanyo Xacti for smallest status. Worries about the ultra-compact size making them difficult to handle are dispelled in use, with both the Toshiba and Sanyo shaped in a way that makes their handling comfortable to manoeuvre and zoom. The larger models are easier to keep steady, especially when using the zoom feature. The slightly bulkier size and shape of the Canon, Samsung, Panasonic and Sony means they fit comfortably in the hand while still enabling easy adjustment over features and settings. Navigation for all camcorders is easy, but the carefully thought-out design of the menu screens make both the Panasonic and Sony the easiest to adjust. Using a more traditional joystick-style of navigation, the Sanyo is well-thought out. The Canon, using a similar joystick for navigation, is actually quite tricky to use in comparison.

»TEST RESULTS

Canon	★★★☆☆
Panasonic	★★★★☆
Samsung	★★☆☆☆
Sanyo	★★★★☆
Sony	★★★★☆
Toshiba	★★★☆☆

The Sony camcorder fits comfortably in the hand and is accessible.



The Panasonic is proof that paying extra can be well worth the cash.

»TEST FOUR

Value for money

Can you get quality for less? We take a cost analysis

All camcorders in the test are available for around £350 or less, which for the features and quality of footage is exceptional value. The Panasonic at the top end of the price bracket shows that spending a little extra does buy you more features and better quality. But this can't be said for the Canon, which features a low-quality LCD, and during the test consistently had issues with picking up wind noise. The Sony is the one camera where design and features seem to meet perfectly, with its small compact size making it easy to use and carry, yet still retaining features you could want for a small point-and-shoot. Although the image quality of the Sanyo and Toshiba is lacking compared with the others, their small size makes them ideal as an everyday camera. The Samsung, similar to the Sony, does the job it was designed for; the only downside is the boxy design. When it comes to value, the real winner is the Sony at just under £300.

»TEST RESULTS

Canon	★★★☆☆
Panasonic	★★★★☆
Samsung	★★★☆☆
Sanyo	★★★☆☆
Sony	★★★★★
Toshiba	★★★☆☆

»THE WINNER / Sony HDR-CX115E

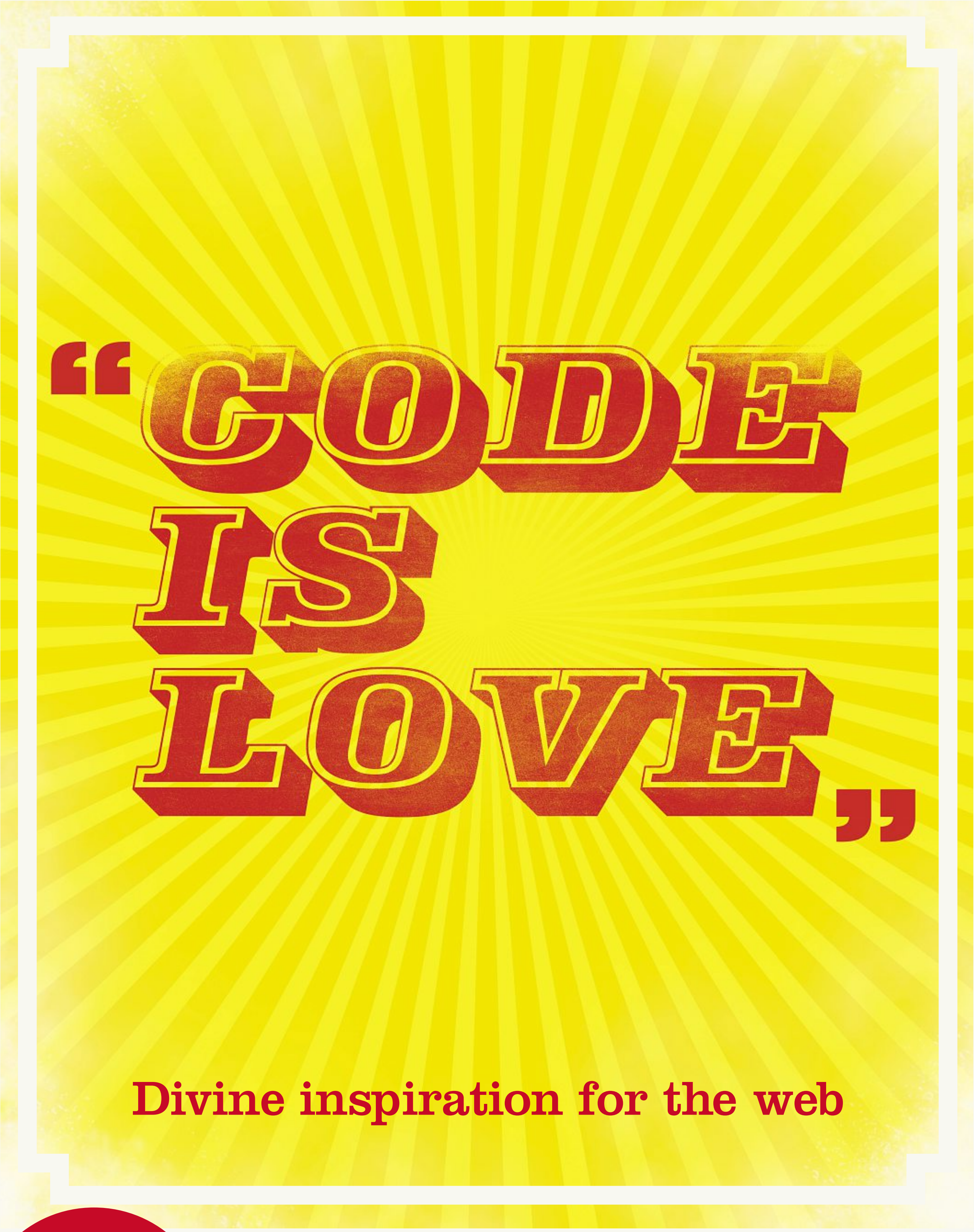
While the Canon and Samsung both perform well, their extra bulk weighed against them. Size-wise, the Sanyo and Toshiba win favour by easily slipping into a pocket, with the Toshiba just taking the edge, purely for its no-fuss ease of use. At the top of the test are the Panasonic and Sony, with similar features with touch screens and iA; image and audio quality from both is also exceptional. But the Sony's smaller size and build quality just take the top spot. Although the Sony doesn't have a video lamp, it does have a maximum aperture of f/1.8, which helps it cope with low light. In the end, the Sony has all you could want from a point-and-shoot camcorder with build, features and quality putting it ahead of the rest.

»FINAL RESULTS

Canon	★★★☆☆
Panasonic	★★★★☆
Samsung	★★★☆☆
Sanyo	★★★☆☆
Sony	★★★★★
Toshiba	★★★☆☆

The Sony provides you with all you'd want from a camcorder.

Mac FORMAT Winner!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"The latest MacBook Pros have Sandy Bridge processors and a Thunderbolt port"

CHECK OUT THE NEW NOTEBOOK RANGE P117

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- NOTEBOOKS
- iPADS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Laurence Cable
Staff Writer

Goodness me! We've been waiting months for some major new Apple kit to come out and suddenly we get two big releases one after the other! Not only have we been treated to a wholly revamped MacBook Pro range – now with the blisteringly fast Intel Core-i processors across the board – but the sleek new iPad 2 as well.

As ever, the new machines bring with them new features and exciting possibilities, so make sure you read our reviews of the new notebooks and hands-on first impressions of the iPad 2. These, along with this buying guide, will help you decide if now's the right time to splash some cash on new kit.

And whether you've been tempted by an iPad 2 or want to do more with your existing iOS gear, we've got a brand new list of top apps and games, hand-picked from our sister title *Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine*. Inspire yourself on pages 122 and 123.

>> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

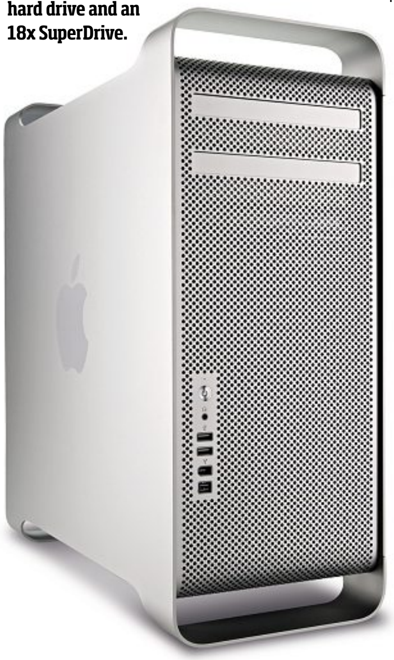
How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you choose!

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac Pro is also available in a Server Edition. Out of the box, it boasts a 2.8GHz CPU, two 1TB hard drives, 8GB of memory and the Server Edition of Snow Leopard.

The entire iMac range now uses Intel's new Core i-series processors.



The Mac Pro offers an ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB GDDR5 graphics card, a 1TB hard drive and an 18x SuperDrive.

Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk**); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at **www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors**. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

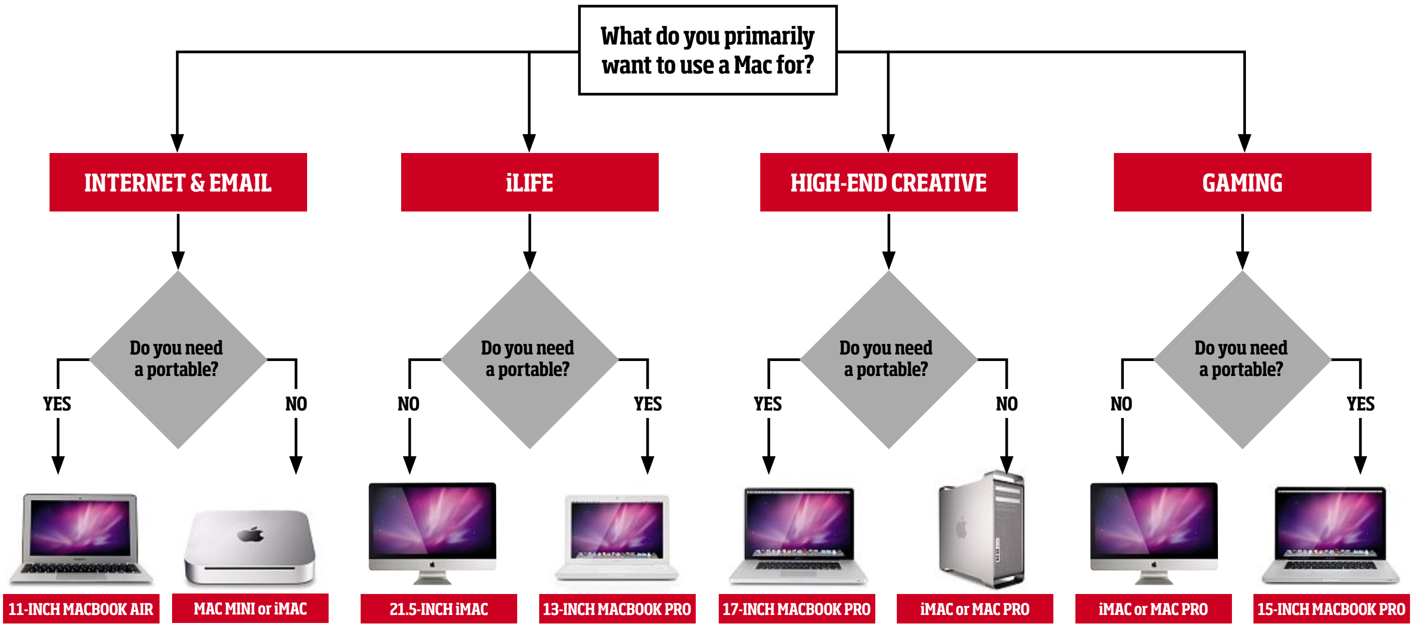
There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at **www.apple.com/uk/education/store**. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having: for example, a dual-core 27-inch iMac lists for £1,342, compared to the regular price of £1,429. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

> *"Cut the cost of your new Mac. Business users can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax"*

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at **www.apple.com/uk/financing**.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

CHOOSING A MAC / Which one is right for you?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
NO
YES
YES
NO
NO
YES
11-INCH MACBOOK AIR
MAC MINI or iMAC
21.5-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

Saving money

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at **http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac**. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year, extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at **http://store.apple.com/uk** – you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £1,020. If you want a higher spec, the next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card – but at £256 extra, you'd really have to want that graphics card. But hang on: you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the specs to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive. Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.

There's an Apple laptop for everyone, from the entry-level MacBook to the high-end MB Pro.

> *"There's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can plump for a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The latest MacBook Pros, released in February 2011, have new Sandy Bridge processors, great new graphics solutions and the new ultra-fast Thunderbolt connectivity port.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options…

21.5-inch 3.06GHz
£1,020

- 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 discrete graphics with 256MB GDDR3 SDRAM • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

21.5-inch 3.2GHz
£1,276

- 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5670 graphics, 512MB GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.2GHz
£1,429

- 3.2GHz Intel Core i3
- 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expndable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5670 graphics, 512MB GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.8GHz (Quad Core) £1,684

- 2.8GHz Intel Core i5 Quad Core • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5750 graphics, 1GB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FW 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

iMac

Updated
July
2010

Mac mini

Mac OS X Server

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?
The Mac mini also comes in a Server Edition, which has no optical drive, but boasts twin 500GB hard drives.

2.4GHz 320GB
£612

- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 4x USB 2.0 • SD card slot
- Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- HDMI to DVI adapter

Updated
June
2010

Mac Pro

Quad-Core

£2,041

• 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

8-Core

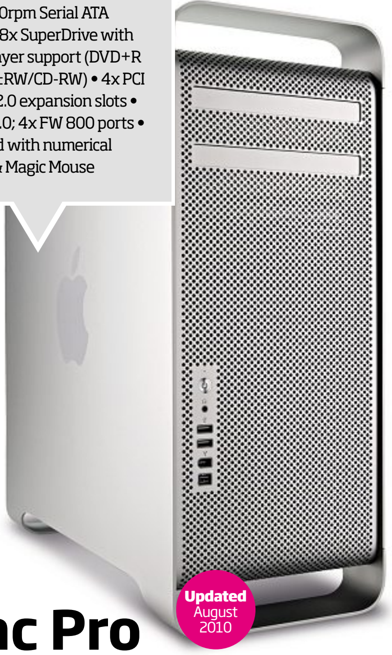
£2,859

• Two 2.4GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

12-Core

£4,083

• Two 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse



MacBook

13-inch white 2.4GHz

£867

• 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB RAM (2x DDR3SDRAM) • 250GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm • 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera • Bluetooth 2.0

Updated
May
2010

MacBook Air

11-inch models

£867/£1,020

• 1.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 11.6-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1366x768 pixels • 64GB or 128GB of flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics processor with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM • 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM • Five-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • Built-in FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Ethernet, Mini DisplayPort

13-inch models

£1,122/£1378 • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1440x900 pixels • 128GB or 256GB of flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics processor with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM • 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM • Seven-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • Built-in FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Ethernet, Mini DisplayPort • SD reader

Updated
October
2010

MacBook Pro

13-inch 2.3GHz

£999

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.3GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor • 7-hour battery • 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 320GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Intel HD Graphics 3000 • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

13-inch 2.7GHz

£1,299

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.7GHz dual-core Intel Core i7 processor • 7-hour battery • 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Intel HD Graphics 3000 • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

15-inch 2.0GHz

£1,549

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.0GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6490M graphics processor with 256MB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

15-inch 2.2GHz

£1,849

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

17-inch 2.2GHz

£2,099

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6, iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated
Feb
2011

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

There are several models of Apple's iPad to choose from. You can select storage capacities of 16GB, 32GB and 64GB. Each of these are available with Wi-Fi-only connectivity, or Wi-Fi and 3G.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web-browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page). If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a 3G data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps, such as *Skype*. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which means you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. Here it would fulfil most functions of a laptop, but don't fall into the trap of thinking of the iPad as a replacement for a home computer. It's fundamentally designed to be an accessory. You're meant to keep your data on your Mac and sync your iPad with it, not the other way around.

It does have some big advantages over a Mac laptop, though. For a start, because it uses solid-state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in two versions, the 3GS and iPhone 4. The latest model, the iPhone 4, features a stunning new 960x640 high-resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The screen itself is now IPS (in plane switching) for great viewing angles. However you hold it, the colours won't shift. There's also a front-facing camera for video chat and HD video recording using the rear camera.

The iPad comes in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, and is available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G versions. The 3G version costs £102 more initially and comes with data plans from either O2, Orange or Vodafone. Prices start at £439 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version, and go up to £714 for the top-range 64GB Wi-Fi + 3G iPad (prices TBC).

> *"The iPad uses solid-state memory, so it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight"*

Use your iPad to surf the web, run apps, send and receive emails, and listen to your music.

The iPhone 4 has a much better screen than previous models. This Retina display has a 960x640 pixel resolution.

iPad 2

Updated March 2011

iPad 16GB
£439 Wi-Fi (TBC)
£541 Wi-Fi + 3G (TBC)

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • Available in black or white • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad 32GB
£510 Wi-Fi (TBC)
£612 Wi-Fi + 3G (TBC)

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • Available in black or white • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad 64GB
£612 Wi-Fi (TBC)
£714 Wi-Fi + 3G (TBC)

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • Available in black or white • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPhone

Updated June 2010

iPhone 3GS 8GB
£428 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black
• 3.5-inch widescreen
• 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
• Photo and video geotagging
• Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
• 115.5x62.1x12.3mm
• 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 4 16GB
£510 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white
• 3.5-inch widescreen
• 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
• Photo and video geotagging
• Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime)
• 115.5x58.6x9.3mm
• 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 32GB
£612 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white
• 3.5-inch widescreen
• 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
• Photo and video geotagging
• Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime)
• 115.5x58.6x9.3mm
• 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

>> APPS EVERYWHERE

The iPad, iPhone and the iPod touch featured over the page can all install and run apps from Apple's App Store. Many of these apps (such as the Facebook app, or *Twitteriffic*) are free, but even the paid-for apps are inexpensive compared to the prices of software for the Mac. However, there's one obvious problem: the iPad has a 9.7-inch screen, while the iPhone has a 3.5-inch screen. Obviously, apps designed to run on the iPhone are going to look tiny on the iPad's larger display.

To make them fit, Apple has introduced something called 'pixel doubling'. Every pixel in the app is doubled, so the app becomes twice the size it was before, thus filling the screen (well, pretty much). You also have the option of running the app at its native resolution on the iPad if you prefer, although this can look strange as the app then sits in a sea of blackness. The pixel-doubling approach can make apps look a little bit fuzzy, especially games, but it appears to be a good enough solution for most apps.

Apple is, of course, encouraging developers to design apps specifically for the iPad's larger screen, so if you're an iPad owner, look out for iPad-only versions of your favourite apps from the App Store. Not only do they look better than their iPhone originals, but the larger screen size means developers can fit extra controls and features into the interface. That means more fun to be had in games, for example.

Some apps are only be available for the iPad. Apple is starting the ball rolling here by releasing its *iWork* suite (consisting of *Pages*, *Numbers* and *Keynote*) for the iPad only. Conversely, apps that utilise the camera on the iPhone obviously won't work on the iPad. Look out for apps with a '+' symbol next to their price on the App store. This means the apps will work perfectly on both iPad and iPhone.

Apps that take advantage of the iPad's larger screen are becoming more common.

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Choosing an iPod

Which model is best for you?

The September 2010 iPod refresh saw every model except the classic updated. The shuffle returned to its old form factor, regaining its on-body controls, but retaining VoiceOver technology that lets the iPod read the title and artist information. For reasons unspecified, the 4GB model has disappeared, leaving only a 2GB iPod shuffle.

The iPod nano underwent the most radical overhaul. The latest model features a square design with touchscreen controls, but has lost its video camera. It's a lot smaller and lighter, though, so you might consider this a fair trade.

Unsurprisingly, the iPod touch benefits from technologies introduced with the iPhone 4, such as a Retina Display and FaceTime. It also has a rear-facing camera that can record 720p HD. And don't forget the iPod classic, which still offers the best price per GB. ●

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2010

iPod shuffle 2GB
£40

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in five colours; silver, blue, green, yellow, pink • No screen, but the control pad returns
- VoiceOver technology lets your iPod talk to you
- 3.5-mm stereo headphone jack is used for both audio out and USB charging
- Battery lasts up to 15 hours
- 29x31.6x8.7mm • 12.5g

iPod nano

Updated September 2010

9:41 AM
Playlists
Now Playing
Artists
Genius M

iPod nano 8GB
£131

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Includes Nike+iPod support
- Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive)
- 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio
- 37.5x40.9x8.78mm
- 21.1g

iPod nano 16GB
£163

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Includes Nike+iPod support
- Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive)
- 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio
- 37.5x40.9x8.78mm
- 21.1g

iPod classic

Updated September 2009

iPod classic 160GB
£197

- Up to 40,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 200 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod touch

Updated September 2010

iPod touch 8GB
£193

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 32GB
£254

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 64GB
£336

- Up to 14,000 songs
- Up to 50,000 photos
- Up to 80 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

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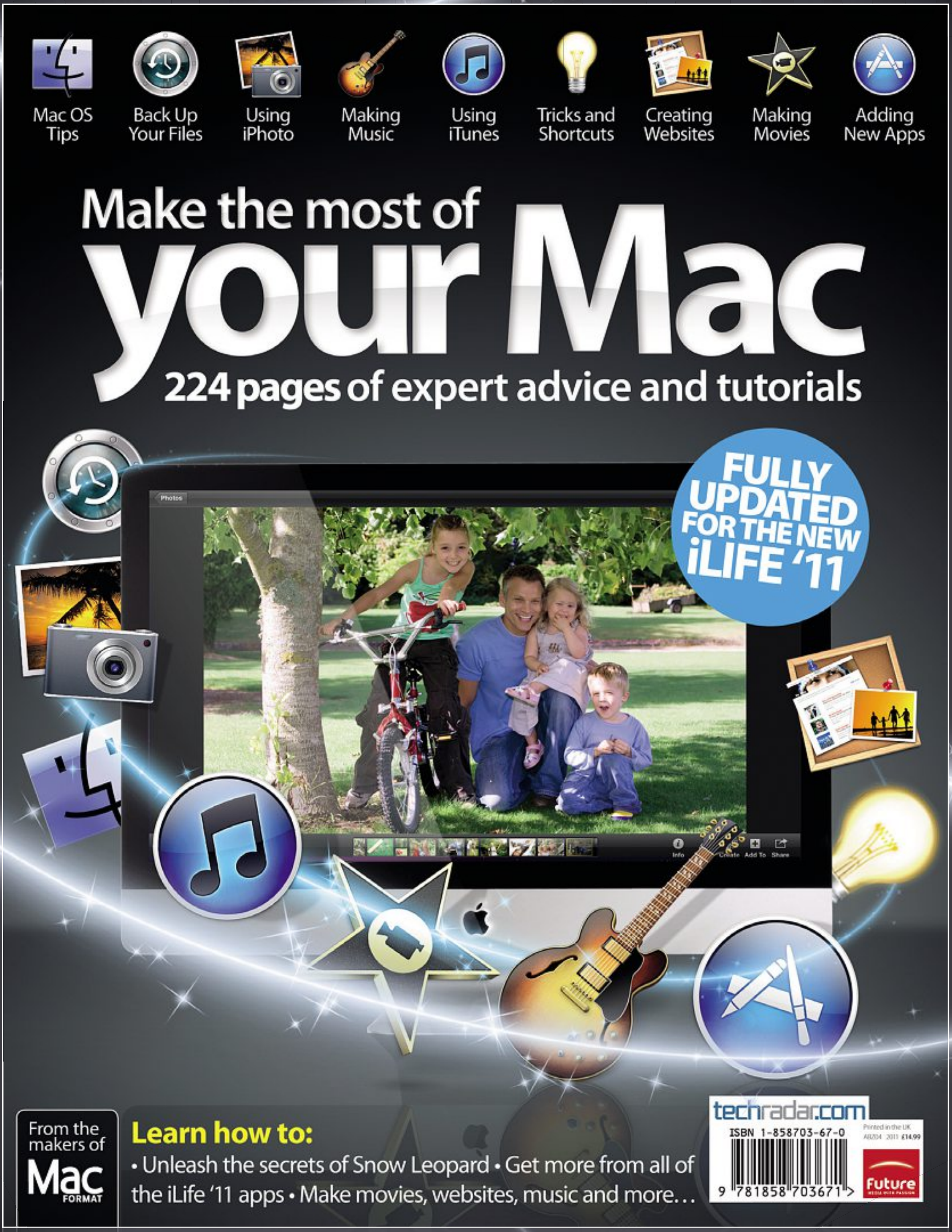

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The best apps for the iPhone, iPad & iPod touch this month

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Transform your iPad into a portable guitar and bass effects system.
iPad; £11.99

GOWALLA

Track and share events on your travels, with Twitter and Foursquare integration.
iPhone/iPod touch; £FREE

BBC iPLAYER

Catch up on shows you missed or enjoy live TV and radio over Wi-Fi.
iPad; £FREE

PERFECT BROWSER

An alternative to using Safari, with interesting additional features.
iPhone/iPod touch; 59p

MALCOLM TUCKER: THE MISSING PHONE

Explore Tucker's phone. Contains crude language.
iPhone/iPod touch; £3.99

SYNCSPACE

A drawing app with a twist – share your work in real time over the web.
iPad; £1.19

DJAY

Get yourself a pair of decks on your iPad and you'll be scratching like a pro.
iPad; £11.99

CAMERA+

A must-have upgrade for anyone who uses the iPhone's camera.
iPhone; 59p

MONOCHROMIA

Produce stunning black and white photographs thanks to a range of effects.
iPhone/iPod touch; £1.19

AIRVIEW

Watch AirPlay streams from your Mac or another iPad, iPhone or iPod touch.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £FREE

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BUYERS' GUIDE

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Magic Trackpad

★★★★☆

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/ 713555
Key specs: 13.13x13.01x1.83cm; Bluetooth connectivity; powered by 2x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.6.4

⊕ Brings the MacBook's famous gestures to Apple's desktop range
⊖ Snow Leopard only

"Well conceived and beautifully executed, it's well worth a try if you use a Mac Pro, iMac or Mac mini at home or work."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £84 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures
⊕ Gesture support, good software bundle
⊖ Expensive

Microsoft Arc Mouse ★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Full review: www.techradar.com/913796
Key specs: Wireless operation; foldable form factor
⊕ Highly portable. Has four customisable buttons
⊖ Might not suit those who like a small mouse

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640

★★★★★

Price: £200 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/644919
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

⊕ Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
⊖ Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

Canon PIXMA MG6150 ★★★★★

Price: £150 **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719361
Key specs: Six-tank inkjet; touch-sensitive controls
⊕ Comprehensive connectivity; stellar print quality
⊖ Could be faster

Samsung ML-2855ND ★★★★★

Price: £154 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Key specs: Mono laser printer
⊕ Incredible value to run and great print quality
⊕ Elegant, well-realised text and decent images
⊕ Helpful screen to guide you through problems

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £918 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/912746
Key specs: 27-inch LED screen, 2,560x 1,440, 12ms response time, 3x self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

⊕ Bright and sharp; good speakers; single cable to Mac
⊖ Height not adjustable; very expensive; average colour consistency

"The picture's sharp and the colours are bright and vivid, but just look at that price tag. Quality, but too expensive."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor
⊕ Excellent value for money
⊖ No speakers

Samsung FX2490HD ★★★★☆

Price: £266 **Reviewed:** Issue 230
Full review: www.techradar.com/908753
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x1,280 res
⊕ Great screen, good audio, includes TV tuner
⊖ Lacks adjustability, pricey and lacks HD channels

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Scosche IDR655m

★★★★½

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.scosche.com
Full review: MF issue 223 group test
Key specs: Frequency response 15Hz-20KHz; weight 11g; cable length 139cm; six pairs of tips and a carry pouch

⊕ Excellent audio quality; inline controls, with volume adjustment
⊖ Felt like they should fit a little deeper in the ear

"Excellently placed mic and controls, a beautifully lively sound and a comprehensive feature set."

Arcam rCube ★★★★★

Price: £500 **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926264
Key specs: Mains or rechargeable battery-powered
⊕ Stellar sound; robust and stylish; transportable
⊖ Harshly exposes heavily compressed MP3s

Creative ZiiSound D5 ★★★★½

Price: £280 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702310
Key specs: Bluetooth speaker set for Mac and iPod
⊕ Impressive sound; solid Bluetooth connection
⊖ Not great at shaping the sound

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Samsung WB2000

★★★★½

Price: £266 **Reviewed:** Issue 228
Web: www.samsung.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/905154
Key specs: 10MP resolution; 4.3-21.5mm lens; JPEG, raw and H.264 file formats; SD and SDHC card formats; weighs 153.3g

⊕ Superb image quality; 1080p video; good creative control
⊖ Some handling issues

"A great standalone cam or partner to an SLR, with fine video to boot. Photos and video are pure quality."

Leica V-LUX 20 ★★★★☆

Price: £465 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702331
Key specs: 12.1MP; Leica DC-VARIO-ELMAR lens
⊕ Powerful 12x zoom option; GPS tagging
⊖ Expensive for a compact

Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH2 ★★★★☆

Price: £750 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/926611
Key specs: 18.32MP; 14-42mm lens; SD/SDHC/SDXC
⊕ Smooth video output; articulated LED screen
⊖ Some small controls; too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £1,140 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26 ★★★☆☆

Price: £150 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/561668
Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2
⊕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
⊖ Files need converting to play on Mac

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7390

★★★★★

Price: £250 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/912929
Key specs: 802.11n, g, b and a; dual band 2.4GHz and 5GHz; power consumption 6-8 watts; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including dual band wireless 'n'; very fast
⊖ Expensive, especially if you don't want the telephony functions

"Fast and feature-rich, the FRITZ!Box 7390 could transform your home network. Great traffic-shaping features too."

Devolo dLAN Wireless 'n' ★★★★☆

Price: £115 **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926334
Key specs: Three Ethernet ports plus Wi-Fi
⊕ Easy to set up and use; versatile; fast speeds
⊖ A little bulky for some skirting boards

Janus Wi-Fi Adapter ★★★★☆

Price: £55 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709609
Key specs: Range of up to 1000 metres
⊕ Powerful and solid wireless networking
⊖ Instructions for Mac users not great

STORAGE

Mobile Drive CLS

★★★★½

Price: £varies **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.freecom.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/713563
Key specs: Dock takes up to three portable drives; drives available in capacities of 250, 320, 500 and 640GB; USB 2.0.

⊕ Convenient; stylish design; flexible; reasonable performance
⊖ Standard drives offer a better price-per-GB ratio

"A neat, inexpensive hard disk docking station that makes us go all nostalgic. Nice rubber finish too."

Buffalo Dualie 500GB ★★★★½

Price: £119 **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678951
Key specs: USB 2.0 and FireWire connectivity
⊕ Attractive, robust, space-saving design
⊖ Expensive; drive slows when iPhone docked

DataTraveler Locker+ 8GB ★★★★½

Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/930867
Key specs: 256-bit AES security
⊕ Password-protects your data; good price
⊖ Can't function without its launcher app

TOP 10 Tap! Games

The best games for the iPhone, iPad & iPod touch this month

WORLD OF GOO HD

A simply fantastic and very addictive puzzle game. Guide the goo to the exit.
iPad; £2.99

HELSING'S FIRE HD

This puzzler manages to be beautiful, engaging and funny at the same time.
iPad; £2.39

DUNGEON HUNTER 2 HD

The best RPG you'll find on the iPad. Engaging story and slick combat.
iPad; £3.99

SHIFT 2

This second version's 150 new black and white puzzling levels will keep you hooked.
iPhone/iPod touch; 59p

SUPER BLAST 2

Fire your way through space. The universe has never been so beautiful.
iPhone/iPod touch; 59p

REAL RACING 2

Real licensed cars, great control mechanism but an annoying unlock system.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £3.99

DEAD SPACE FOR iPAD

A terriffic third-person shooter with lovely audio, let down a tad by the controls.
iPad; £5.99

SUPER STICK GOLF

Eight more holes than the original sideways-on golfer, with Game Center support.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £1.19

N.O.V.A. 2 HD

Superb weapons, vehicular levels and multiplayer are great additions to this FPS.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £1.19

LARA CROFT AND THE GUARDIAN OF LIGHT

Recreate the magic of the early Tomb Raider games.
iPhone/iPod touch; £3.99

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BUYERS' GUIDE

HOME OFFICE

Scrivener 2.0

★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.literatureandlatte.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/913378
System reqs: A Mac with either an Intel or an older PPC procesor can be used; minimum version of OS X is 10.4: Tiger

⊕ Great new features; improved corkboard; better outlining
⊖ Some aspects are quite complex

"Far and away the best application available for long-form writing, on any platform. A superb update."

MS Office for Mac 2011 ★★★★☆

Price: From £76 **Reviewed:** Issue 228
Full review: www.techradar.com/903277
System reqs: OS X 10.5.8 or later; Intel Mac
⊕ Cheaper and faster than 2008; new features
⊖ No upgrade pricing

FileMaker Pro 11 ★★★★★

Price: £257 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683719
System reqs: OS X 10.5.7 or later
⊕ Easy to use; built-in charts; Quick Find
⊖ No image import from Bento

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Freeway 5.5 Pro

★★★★★

Price: £155 **Reviewed:** Issue 230
Web: www.softpress.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/919171
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5 or higher; Intel or PowerPC processor; Tiger users can run Version 5.4.3

⊕ Powerful layout controls; built-in web image optimising; new features
⊖ Weak HTML import; only one undo

"Freeway 5.5 Pro is great for website design work, and doesn't ask for a degree in coding first."

SketchBook Pro ★★★★☆

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/930868
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5 or later; Intel only
⊕ Great UI; customisable; realistic; easy to use
⊖ Sluggish on slower Macs

Photoshop Elements 9 ★★★★½

Price: £58 (£65 bundled) **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719934
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11+, Intel Mac, 512MB
⊕ New Guided Edit mode; Layer masks; Organizer
⊖ Some features not so effective

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Bjango iStat Menus 3

★★★★★

Price: £11 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.bjango.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694688
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later. The last version to offer compatibility with OS X 10.4: Tiger was iStat Menus 1.3

⊕ Updated interface; simpler intstallation; great new features
⊖ It's no longer free, though it's certainly worth paying for

"A solid upgrade to what was already a first-rate add-on for any Mac. A great application that continues to improve."

Stuffit Deluxe 2011 ★★★★★

Price: £33 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Full review: www.techradar.com/912996
System reqs: OS X 10.6 or later
⊕ Fast compression; good workflow management
⊖ Not for occasional users

VueScan 9.0 ★★★★★

Price: From $40 (£12) **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926342
System reqs: OS X 10.3.9 or later
⊕ Extends the life of out-of-date scanners
⊖ The wizard could do more

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iLife '11

★★★★½

Price: £46 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com
System reqs: Intel processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.6.3 or later; 5GB HDD space; display, min. 1280x768-pixel resolution.

⊕ Great new features for iPhoto, iMovie and GarageBand
⊖ iDVD and iWeb not updated; the iLife suite is now Snow Leopard-only

"It's a pity iLife '11 is Intel-only, but as PowerPC Macs were discontinued in 2006, it's probably time to let go."

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

Price: £417 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★½

Price: £32 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709610
System reqs: 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Great new tools, including masking function
⊖ It's not the Mac's best-looking app

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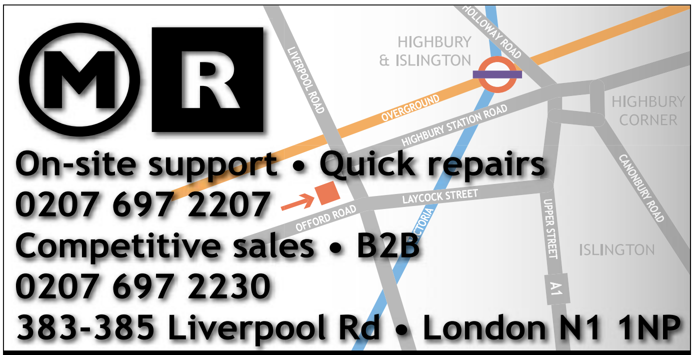

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www.abdnmug.co.uk

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www.bbmug.co.uk

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[7] ClubMac Ireland
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www.clubmac.ie

[8] Cork University College
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www.ucc.ie/mug

[9] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
contact@macenthusiasts.co.uk
http://www.macenthusiasts.co.uk

[10] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[11] Durham University MUG
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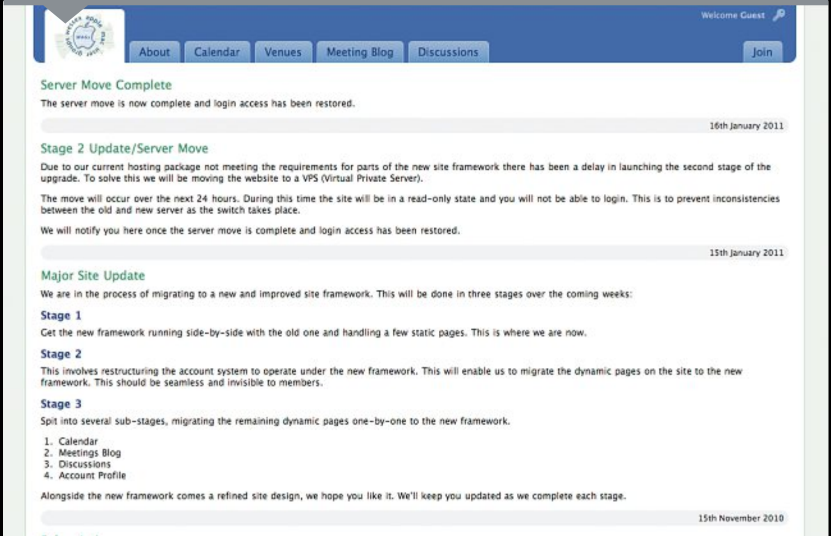

Server Move Complete

The server move is now complete and login access has been restored.

16th January 2011

Stage 2 Update/Server Move

Due to our current hosting package not meeting the requirements for parts of the new site framework there has been a delay in launching the second stage of the upgrade. To solve this we will be moving the website to a VPS (Virtual Private Server).

The move will occur over the next 24 hours. During this time the site will be in a read-only state and you will not be able to login. This is to prevent inconsistencies between the old and new server as the switch takes place.

We will notify you here once the server move is complete and login access has been restored.

15th January 2011

Major Site Update

We are in the process of migrating to a new and improved site framework. This will be done in three stages over the coming weeks:

Stage 1

Get the new framework running side-by-side with the old one and handling a few static pages. This is where we are now.

Stage 2

This involves restructuring the account system to operate under the new framework. This will enable us to migrate the dynamic pages on the site to the new framework. This should be seamless and invisible to members.

Stage 3

Spit into several sub-stages, migrating the remaining dynamic pages one-by-one to the new framework.

1. Calendar
2. Meetings Blog
3. Discussions
4. Account Profile

Alongside the new framework comes a refined site design, we hope you like it. We'll keep you updated as we complete each stage.

15th November 2010

The Wessex MUG serves Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire. Its most recent meeting in February was attended by 14 people, where Michael Corgan gave a presentation on how *Pages* could be used to create brochures, posters and books on your Mac. Membership is just £20 a year with no fee charged at meetings. If you'd like to 'pay as you go' then you can turn up to a meeting and pay £5 to see what it's all about. To find out more and get involved visit **www.wamug.org.uk**.

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www.swmug.org.uk

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www.smug.ie

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>>ALARM AND TIMER

Timer Utility 3.5.4

More than just countdowns

Timer Utility enables you to set alarms, countdown timers and run stopwatches on your Mac. You can set a number of tasks to perform when the alarm time comes, or the countdown runs out. These include opening files and apps, loading a web page, logging out, shutting down or restarting.

Upgrade offer

To upgrade to *Timer Utility Pro 4*, take advantage of a special discount for *MacFormat* readers! Go to http://bit.ly/timerutility to get 25% off.

>>WAKE-UP CALL

Alarm Clock Pro 8.6.2

Wake to the sound of music

Swap your bedside clock's beeper for your favourite tunes when getting-up time comes. *Alarm Clock Pro* can also be set to send emails, text messages, security screenshots, speak text or run a *Terminal* command. Your alarms can repeat at various intervals or exclude days when you don't have to get up!

Upgrade offer

Like *Alarm Clock Pro*? Why not upgrade to the latest version and get a 20% discount at the same time? Go to http://bit.ly/alarmclockpro to get started.

>>UPDATER

MacUpdate Desktop 5.0.8

Exclusive 90-day subscription

The Mac App Store is all well and good at alerting you about updates to software you got through said Store, but it doesn't look at non-App Store programs. *MacUpdate Desktop* digs through your Mac and lets you know if there are newer versions of much of your software available.

It then offers you the option to download and install each one at the click of a button. The normal trial period is 10 days, but we've secured a special 90-day subscription for *MacFormat* readers.

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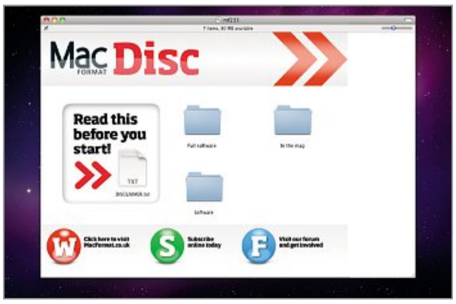
>>HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc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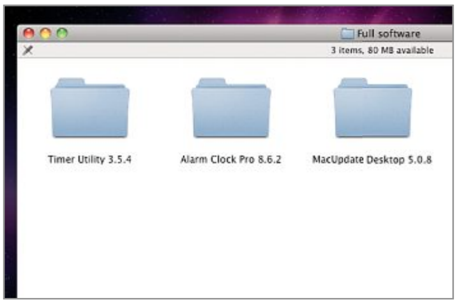
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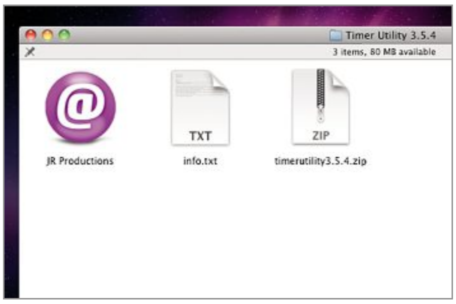
Timer Utility 3.5.4
Alarm Clock Pro 8.6.2
MacUpdate Desktop 5.0.8

02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.


Timer Utility 3.5.4
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ZIP
timerutility3.5.4.zip

03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the app itself. Drag it to your desktop to open. ●

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>> HAVING PROBLEMS?

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FULL SOFTWARE

Alarm Clock Pro 8.6.2
MacUpdate Desktop 5.0.8
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Mac FORMAT
ISSUE 233 / May 2011

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OTHER RESOURCES

Essential software
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AppZapper 2.0.1
Burn 2.5.1
Firefox 3.6.13
Gimp 2.6.11
HandBrake 0.9.5
TextWrangler 3.5.3
The Unarchiver 2.6
Thunderbird 3.1.7
VLC Media Player 1.1.7

Recommended
Alarm Clock Pro 9.4.1
Timer Utility 4.0.9

Top freeware
Anki 1.2.7
Exhaust 0.3
HTMchen 1.0.3
MiniUsage 1.2.1
Moxier Wallet 1.0.9
OnyX 2.2.4
Pixelfari 1.0
SimplePlayer 0.5.0
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>> FINDING A SERIAL CODE

With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but - as with any new software - we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

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Coverdisc problems

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Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We regret that are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

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Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
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